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Egyptian minister praises trade unions' support for Iraq

AQABA (Petra) — Egypt's Minister of Manpower and Training Sa'ad Mohammad Ahmad Friday praised the efforts exerted by Jordanian trade unions in support of Iraq in its 54-month-old war with Iran. In an address at a public labour rally held here by the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions in cooperation with the international trade unions committee and the federations of trade unions in Iraq and Egypt, Mr. Ahmad called for an end to the Iran-Iraq war. Later, Mr. Ahmad visited the chemical fertilisers industry complex in Aqaba and was briefed on the development of the industry. Then he also toured the Arab Potash Company in Ghor Al Safi in Karak, as part of a tour in the South.

Five killed in E. Beirut hold-up

BEIRUT (R) — Unidentified gunmen got away with jewellery worth \$1.5 million after killing five people when they held up a jeweller's shop in east Beirut Thursday, security sources said. The gunmen seized all the gold and jewellery in the shop at Burj Hammoud district, estimated to be worth some 25 million Lebanese pounds (about \$1.5 million), after killing the owner and his four assistants.

4 Israelis injured in Katyusha attack

TEL AVIV (AP) — Four Israeli soldiers were wounded by a Katyusha rocket fired at their position in South Lebanon on Friday, the military command announced. The command said the Katyusha was fired at an Israeli army position at Lake Qaraoun, at the southern end of the Bekaa Valley. The soldiers were evacuated to hospital, it said. The command announced earlier that Israeli troops killed three resistance men in South Lebanon in an overnight clash on the Litani River. It said the incident occurred 10 kilometres northeast of the port of Tyre, when Israeli troops shot figures on the river bank. Military sources added that resistance men attacked four Israeli army positions with rocket-propelled grenades in the area of Tyre during the night. There were no Israeli casualties, the sources said.

Kilbi seeks to avert crisis at Afro-Arab talks

TUNIS (R) — The head of the Arab League left for Morocco Friday to persuade Morocco not to boycott an Afro-Arab conference in Libya next month, Arab diplomatic sources said. Morocco said Thursday night it would boycott the conference if the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR), the government proclaimed by Polisario guerrillas fighting Morocco for the independence of the Western Sahara, attends, the sources said. They said League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi would have talks with King Hassan to try to resolve the issue. (Related story on page 2)

Seven killed, 25 injured as Lebanese foes renew battles

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Sniper fire crackled in downtown Beirut Friday, and battles erupted anew around the southern port of Sidon. Police said a ceasefire halted a third conflict in Tripoli but fighting in the three cities left seven dead and more than 25 wounded.

Police said seven people were killed and more than 25 wounded in the fighting and the French embassy said two French school teachers were kidnapped but then released in Beirut. At least two people were killed and five people were wounded in Sidon Friday, including three Lebanese army soldiers and two civilians, when battles between Lebanese army troops and Falangist militiamen of the mostly Christian Falangist "Lebanese Forces" on the city's eastern outskirts intensified. Police said two civilians were wounded earlier in fighting around Sidon Thursday evening. The battles quieted with a ceasefire at dawn Friday, but erupted anew in the villages of Qanaya, Qayaa, Haaliyyeh and Abra to the east of Sidon, 40 kilometres south of Beirut. There were reports of sniper fire on Sidon from the hills controlled by Falangist forces. On Friday, ambulances drove through the city appealing for donations for the injured. Police said the Sidon fighting spread Friday to the neighbouring town of Mieh Mieh, where militiamen traded mortar and rocket fire with Palestinians in the adjacent refugee camp that bears the same name. According to Sidon hospitals, two Palestinian fighters were killed and five others wounded. An elderly Palestinian man, a civilian, was also injured in the fighting which erupted at noon and raged for more than five hours. Sniper fire injured two Palestinians in the neighbouring 'Ain Al Hilweh Palestinian camp, according to hospitals. Palestinian residents of the Mieh Mieh camp told reporters that Lebanese army positions around Mieh Mieh camp came under machine gun fire from Falangist forces in Mieh Mieh village at noon. Four days of fighting last week killed 10 people, wounded more than 50 and drove thousands from their homes in Sidon's eastern suburbs when Falangist gunmen moved in. In the north Lebanese city of Tripoli, police said, five people were killed and 11 wounded as militiamen of the fundamentalist Tawheed (Islamic Unification Movement) fought into the night with irregulars of the pro-Syrian "Arabian Knights" organisation. The two rival militias used mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns in Tripoli's Kubbe residential district. A ceasefire was called at midnight, police said. Francois Abi Saab, a spokesman for the embassy, identified the victims as Jean-Claude Dupuy and Robert Valantian. They were walking home from a late class at College Protestant when gunmen intercepted them at west Beirut's Verdun neighbourhood, stuffed both of them into the trunk of a blue Volvo and sped away, he said. The pair reported the incident to the embassy after their release, saying the kidnappers questioned them about their nationality and occupation, then told them it was a "matter of mistaken nationality." Kidnaps alarm Lebanese factional leaders, page 2

OIC calls for world support of Palestinians

BAHRAIN (R) — The Jeddah-based 45-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) called on the world community Friday to support the Palestinian people and on the United States and the West to stop their aid to Israel. A statement issued by OIC Secretary-General Sharifuddin Pirzada and carried by the Saudi Press Agency said the world community should stand by the Palestinian people in their struggle to recover their rights, usurped by the Zionist enemy. The statement said support of the Palestinians by the Islamic Nation would continue until they achieved "the right to return to their homeland, the right to self-determination and the right to have their own independent state on Palestinian soil." Mr. Pirzada said: "I appeal to the Western states, particularly the United States, to stop their support of the Zionist aggression against the Palestinian people and against our Muslim holy places and desist from extending military and economic aid to the aggressive state Israel." The statement was issued for Saturday's "Day of the Land", celebrated throughout the Arab World, to mark the determination of the Palestinians in their struggle to recover their homeland.

Luce denounces Israeli settlements in West Bank

LONDON (R) — Britain has denounced Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank as illegal. Foreign Office Minister Richard Luce said Thursday Britain was "profoundly concerned" about political, humanitarian and economic conditions on the West Bank. He told the Middle Eastern Association in a speech in London that early and tangible improvements in the condition of Palestinians in the West Bank were badly needed. "We deplore the Israeli policy of installing and building up settlements as illegal, and yet another barrier to peace," Mr. Luce said. He said the upsurge in violence in South Lebanon as Israel withdrew from the area was "shocking and appalling." "It is a devastating example of how retaliation and counter-



JORDAN-IRAQ IN ACTION: A scene from a football match Friday between the national teams of Jordan (dark shirts) and Iraq in an Asian Group 1, Sub-group B, qualifier series. Iraq won the match 3:2 (See page 6)

China denies arms deal with Iran

PEKING (AP) — The Chinese government Friday dismissed as "sheer fabrication" a press report in London which said Iran has secured a \$1.6 billion arms contract with China. The London-based Al Taghrir newsletter reported Wednesday that China agreed to supply fighter planes, tanks, rocket launchers, missiles and field guns in Iran's biggest weapons deal since Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini came to power in 1979. In return, Iran agreed to supply two million tons of crude oil to China over two years and pay the remainder of the bill in cash, the newsletter said. The independent Arabic-language publication, quoting unidentified Iranian sources, said a two-year contract was signed earlier this month in Tehran by Chinese State Councillor Zhang Jingfu.

In response to questions from the Associated Press, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed Peking's neutral position on the Iran-Iraq war and said: "The news that China and Iran concluded an agreement on China's weapons sales to Iran is sheer fabrication." The spokesman said Zhang Jingfu visited Tehran as a member of a government economic delegation for talks with Iran and other Middle East and North African countries on "bilateral economic and trade relations" and Third World cooperation. "Since the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq war, China has all along observed strict neutrality and stood for an early end to this sanguinary conflict between the two warring parties through peaceful consultations," the spokesman said. "We have explained on many occasions the above mentioned principled position of ours to the two friendly countries, Iran and Iraq," he said.

The spokesman said China's position had been explained to both sides on several occasions. Peking appreciated the efforts by international organisations to mediate an end to the war. China has heavily promoted itself as an arms manufacturer and its main armaments firm became the country's fifth largest export earner last year. China North Industries Corporation (Norinco) said it made \$1.66 billion in 1984, accounting for 6.8 per cent of China's total exports. China directs its arms trade mainly at Third World buyers and already supplies Pakistan, Egypt, North Korea and several other Middle Eastern and African countries. Chinese weapons, mostly based on adaptations of outdated Soviet equipment, are generally simple but effective and offered at a substantial discount. China is using the foreign exchange earned from exports to buy more sophisticated military equipment.

Rafsanjani rejects ceasefire on ground

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — A top Iranian leader said Friday Iran rejects a ceasefire on the ground in the 54-month-old Iran-Iraq war and was preparing for a "major offensive" against Iraq. In Baghdad, a senior Iraqi official was quoted as saying Iraq had pinpointed a base from which he said Iran was firing missiles at Baghdad and other Iraqi cities. Two envoys of Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, leader of the Non-Aligned Movement, left Delhi for Tehran Friday in an effort to end the "fratricidal war" between Iran and Iraq. "We will plead with Iranian leaders, as we had done with the Iraqi leadership, that this fratricidal war should end and the people of the two countries should be allowed to live in peace," said Khurshid Alam Khan, minister of state for external affairs, before his departure. Mr. Khan and Ramesh Bhandari, India's foreign secretary, were carrying a special message from Mr. Gandhi to Iranian President Ali Khamenei and were expected to stay in the Iranian capital for two days. Official sources said Mr. Gandhi will attempt to bring both sides in the Gulf war together in New Delhi next month during a meeting of foreign ministers of the non-aligned countries. Ruling out an Iranian acceptance of a ceasefire on the ground, Iran's Parliament Speaker Ali Akbar Rafsanjani said in Tehran that Iran was preparing for its "final offensive."

The official Iranian news agency, IRNA, quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as clarifying however Iran was ready to a ceasefire with regard to the recently escalating retaliatory attacks by the warring sides on oil tankers in the Gulf and each other's towns. "But we will not agree to a ceasefire on the warfronts and will not calm down in this way," he was quoted as saying. "The necessary groundwork for the launching of Iran's major offensive has been prepared," Mr. Rafsanjani added. Iran has been threatening to launch a major "final offensive" against Iraq for more than a year.

Union Carbide to blame for disaster, India says

NEW DELHI (R) — The Indian government Friday said it had evidence that the American chemical company Union Carbide was responsible for a poison gas leak in Bhopal last December which killed 2,500 people. The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency quoted Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister Veerendra Patil as telling parliament that the government had adequate evidence to establish the culpability of the company, whose Indian subsidiary owns the pesticide factory where the leak occurred. PTI quoted Mr. Patil as saying a Union Carbide report on the company's own investigation into the tragedy, released last week in the United States, was apparently based on insufficient evidence and was therefore speculative and "motivated."

Mr. Patil added that statements by Carbide Chairman Warren Anderson and other company officials on the December 3 leak were unwarranted and unjustified, PTI said. Mr. Anderson said sabotage could not be ruled out in the leak and blamed Bhopal plant operators for not controlling a runaway chemical reaction by deliberately ignoring standard safety and operating procedures. He said it was unlikely that water introduced into a storage tank containing lethal methyl isocyanate was an accident.

King, Queen begin private visit to Spain

SEVILLE, Spain (Agencies) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor began a private visit to Spain Thursday after concluding a four-day state visit as guests of King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain. During the state visit the King addressed the Spanish parliament, held talks with Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and senior Spanish leaders, visited a Spanish airbase and received a honorary doctorate degree from the University of Seville in southern Spain. The King and Queen were accompanied by Her Highness Princess Basma and her husband Walid Al Kurdi during the state visit. During a visit the King and Queen made to the Madrid City Council on Tuesday, the Madrid mayor presented the King with the key to the Spanish capital. In his speech to the Spanish parliament on Tuesday, the King said the Feb. 11 agreement between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on joint action towards Middle East peace offers a "sound mechanism" for a solution to the Palestinian problem and appealed to Spain to support the accord on the international scene. Talks between a Jordanian delegation accompanying the King, including Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, and Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, and a Spanish team headed by Mr. Gonzalez dwelt on the Feb. 11 agreement, prospects for Middle East peace on the basis of the agreement and Jordanian-Spanish relations in all fields. In a speech he delivered at a banquet hosted in honour of King Hussein and Queen Noor, King Juan Carlos said Spain supported the joint Jordanian-Palestinian peace initiative. On Wednesday, King Hussein and King Juan Carlos visited a Spanish air force base and watched an exercise by a squadron of Spanish air force jets. King Hussein and King Juan Carlos, both experienced pilots, flew combat training planes of the Spanish air force.

On Thursday, the final day of the state visit, the University of Seville presented a honorary degree to King Hussein. Accepting the degree, the King delivered a speech at the university praising Jordanian-Spanish relations, which he said, have existed since hundreds of years and further bolstered over the past three decades. King Hussein commended Spanish-Jordanian cooperation in laying the foundation of justice and helping to promote world peace based on true understanding and mutual respect, and aimed at rooting out injustice, and averting further disasters. He said "these endeavours are much needed in the Middle East region whose peoples have been exposed to many injustices and aggression at the hands of the enemies of the human race."

King Hussein referred to the strong ties and cultural heritage between the Arab and Spanish nations over the centuries. "The two nations have been linked by cultural bonds and were together partners in blending a remarkable civilisation, when Spain was under Arab rule in the Middle Ages, through cooperation among various sects and religions in the country," King Hussein said. The King paid tribute to the cultural institutions of Spain, which he said, "gave enlightenment to the world during the European era of renaissance." "King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, the founder of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, paid visit to Spain in 1949 and laid the foundation of strong relations between Jordan and Spain and these relations continued to grow and prosper over the years," King Hussein said. He expressed appreciation and gratitude for the doctorate degree awarded to him and the hospitality accorded to him, the Queen and the accompanying delegation. Following the ceremony at the university, the King and Queen were guests of honour at a lunch at Seville's Alcazar Moorish Fortress.

Reagan secures final Congress okay on MX

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has won another major MX nuclear missile battle with his deft use of the presidency and its special powers but the cost may be an erosion of congressional support for his overall defence buildup. The House of Representatives, following the Senate lead, gave final approval Thursday to Mr. Reagan's request for \$1.5 billion in 1985 to build 21 more of the highly accurate 10-warhead intercontinental ballistic missiles. The 217 to 210 vote in the Democratic-controlled chamber was the fourth ballot cast on the issue over the past two weeks as part of a two-step process to authorise and then appropriate the funds. In the end, Congress acceded to Mr. Reagan's intensive lobbying and his argument that MX was needed to buoy the U.S. position at arms talks with the Soviet Union. But there were growing signs his political capital on his \$1,000-billion military buildup may be spent. House majority leader Jim Wright said: "Most members feel it is an act of patriotism to support the president in his request for major weapons system to defend the country."

Briton stages 1-hour 'hijack' at Heathrow

LONDON (AP) — A Briton pretending to have a gun commandeered a Lufthansa jetliner on a flight from Hamburg to London Friday, said he wanted to go to Honolulu, and then surrendered to police after a one-hour siege at Heathrow airport, Scotland Yard reported. Police and civil aviation authority officials said the man appeared to be deranged. And pointed out that the Lufthansa flight had been bound for the airport at which he ordered it to land. Passenger J.A. Ater, 57, a Texas businessman, said the man had said on the plane's intercom: "I'm calling for a Jumbo jet, and we're all going to Honolulu." After the Boeing 737 landed at Heathrow, Mr. Ater said, "there was some discussion between the man and the crew, and then he went back and sat down in his seat, and I thought it was all over."

Scotland Yard spokeswoman Frances Walker told the Associated Press that the hijacker "appeared to be mentally ill and did not seem to have any terrorist motive."

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Khartoum tense after crackdown on unrest

KHARTOUM (R) — Security forces guarded key points in Khartoum Friday after two days of disturbances which the authorities blamed on the Islamic fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood.

Friday began calm but tense, residents reported, after 300 of up to 1,500 arrested in a wave of street violence were given summary trials.

The government spoke of "different sentences" with no details but residents said they had heard that jail terms and floggings were handed down.

Diplomats said three people died in violent protests over rising food prices which a government statement said were incited by the Muslim Brotherhood, purged earlier this month from the ruling hierarchy by President Jaafar Numeiri.

Police said people who migrated to the capital from provinces stricken by the drought that is scourging sub-Saharan Africa participated in the protests. Official statements pledged measures to evacuate "vagrants, unemployed and beggars" and said 17 Brotherhood leaders were being

hunted.

Mr. Numeiri, 55, in power since a bloodless 1969 coup, is in Washington for talks on aid for his near-bankrupt economy.

Diplomats in Cairo said they expected him to press the U.S. to unblock some of at least \$100 million of aid frozen earlier this year pending reforms in Sudan.

In reforming measures, Mr. Numeiri in recent weeks devalued Sudan's pound by 48 per cent and ended fuel and food subsidies.

After U.S. politicians criticised the strictness of the Sharia (Islamic Law) that he imposed in 1983, Mr. Numeiri also offered recently to negotiate with rebels in mainly Christian and pagan southern Sudan and carried out this month's purge of the hitherto influential Muslim Brotherhood.

He says he has no money to buy petrol for his poverty-stricken country of 23 million which has debts of up to \$9 billion, is stricken by

drought and is host to a million famine refugees from Chad and Ethiopia.

Besides guarding public buildings, truckloads of riot police patrolled Khartoum streets Friday. Residents tried not to park cars on the streets for fear they would be wrecked in new outbreaks. Shops were closed, but that is normal ahead of Muslim Friday prayers.

A mob swarmed into Khartoum's marketplace Thursday to loot shops and was dispersed by police using tear gas. By nightfall the city appeared to be returning to normal.

The Muslim Brotherhood supported Mr. Numeiri when he imposed Islamic Law in Sudan in September 1983. But he cracked down on the Brotherhood earlier this month, accusing it of planning to overthrow him.

Mr. Numeiri, who came to power in a coup in 1969 and has survived several attempts to topple him, complained in a meeting of his ruling Sudan Socialist Union earlier this week: "I have no money to buy petrol, we can share the little we have."

Kidnaps alarm Lebanon's factional leaders

BEIRUT (R) — A recent wave of kidnappings of Westerners in Lebanon, claimed by various shadowy groups, has alarmed mainstream leaders but left a prominent fundamentalist Muslim group unmoved.

Nabih Berri, leader of the broadly-based Shiite Muslim Amal Movement, describes the kidnappings as an Israeli plot to destroy civilised values in Lebanon.

"This conspiracy, starting with (the kidnapping of) the French, British and now the U.N., is an Israeli conspiracy even if it is committed by Lebanese hands," he said in a statement.

Amal and the Druze-led Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) are the strongest militias in mainly Muslim west Beirut and its southern environs, where 12 of the abductions have occurred.

"The beneficiaries of keeping out diplomats and foreign journalists will certainly be the Falangist Party, the 'Lebanese Forces' and Israel," said a PSP statement.

However, the Shiite fundamentalist Hizbollah (Party of God) Movement, which U.S. officials have linked to the shadowy Islamic Jihad group, says the kidnappings are a popular reaction to superpower policy in the Middle

East.

Callers for Islamic Jihad have said the group holds 10 of the 15 foreigners who have disappeared in Lebanon over the past 15 months. Two have regained their freedom.

After two Britons and an American reporter were seized in west Beirut on three successive days this month, a caller saying he was from Islamic Jihad told a foreign news agency the kidnappings were part of a campaign to rid Lebanon of "America and its agents."

"We feel major interference in Lebanon by the big powers," said Hizbollah spokesman Sheikh Ibrahim Al Amin, asked by a local news agency for his reaction to the kidnappings.

"There is a feeling that these states want the people to have no will or dignity," he said, adding: "When people want to express their feelings of injustice, no-one can stop them."

Amin urged France and unspecified "big powers" to remove their military and political presence from the Middle East.

However, Sayyid Hussein Mohammad Fadlallah, a Shiite figure influential among Hizbollah followers, told reporters this month: "We must realise we are not against the American peo-

ple, for there are many in America who do not agree with their government."

Sheikh Fadlallah said he did not hold responsible for "subversion" individual Americans who had no links with U.S. intelligence.

A message from a group calling itself "The Revolutionary Organisation of Socialist Muslims" said Thursday it was holding British journalist Alec Collett and accused him of being a spy for British, Israeli and U.S. intelligence.

Mr. Collett, on temporary assignment for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) was seized by gunmen from his clearly-marked U.N. car just south of Beirut on Monday.

Mr. Collett's kidnapping brought to 10 the number of Westerners abducted in Lebanon this year. The victims, some of them priests, diplomats, and journalists, are of American, British, French, Dutch and Saudi Arabian nationality.

The left-wing daily *As-Safir* Thursday urged police to protect foreigners in West Beirut and said accusations of spying levelled against foreign journalists were "silly attempts to justify killings and abductions."

"The foreign journalist operating in the capital is almost the only remaining means left to convey what is happening in Lebanon to the outside world... It is thus very important that foreign journalists be able to do their job," it said.

Meanwhile, two French teachers were kidnapped by gunmen in mainly Muslim west Beirut Thursday night, but were freed two hours later with an apology, a French embassy spokesman said Friday.



HONORARY DEGREE: His Majesty King Hussein tips his academic hat as he acknowledges the applause after he was given an honorary degree in the University of Sevilla Thursday (AP wirephoto).

Israel opposes UNIFIL deployment along border

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel has begun a diplomatic offensive to block a redeployment of United Nations peacekeeping forces along its border with Lebanon.

Foreign Ministry officials declined to discuss Israel's contacts with the 10 nations contributing soldiers to the 5,800-man U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

But one official said Israel was opposed to any change in the disposition of UNIFIL.

Lebanon asked the U.N. Security Council on Thursday to extend UNIFIL's mandate for a further six months when the current term expires on April 19. Lebanon stressed that the area of deployment should reach the border.

UNIFIL's original 1978 mandate calls for the force to be deployed from the Litani River down to the Israeli border. But the peacekeepers have been blocked from reaching all the way to the border by the presence of pro-Israeli militiamen and the Israeli army.

"The Lebanese government has renewed pressure on the United Nations to take positions along the border in anticipation of Israel's withdrawal from South Lebanon, which could be completed as early as June."

The radio said Israel was trying to persuade the contributing countries to make no changes in the

deployment.

"The status quo should not be changed. This would not bring pacification of the area, but would only add more trouble," said the Israeli official, speaking on condition he was not identified.

The Israeli official said Israel would not oppose an extension of the mandate, but said any change in its functions must be approved by the Security Council, where the United States has a veto.

The English-language Jerusalem Post reported that U.N. Undersecretary-General Brian Urquhart has proposed sending UNIFIL forces to the border for a three-month trial period following Israel's evacuation of South Lebanon.

The Post said Israel was unhappy with the proposal, fearing that once UNIFIL moved into the border zone it would not leave and would hamper the Israeli army's freedom to stage punitive strikes for any attacks on Israeli targets across the border.

The paper cited officials in Israel as saying UNIFIL "has outlived its usefulness and would best be dismantled."

Israel's attitude toward the peace force has swung sharply over the years. At the time of Israel's 1982 invasion, the government accused UNIFIL of failing to prevent commando activity against Israel.

Labour could win if Israeli elections are held now, poll says

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Shimon Peres' Labour Party has gained enough support since the last election to win control of the government without having to share power with its current partner, the Likud Bloc, a poll published Friday shows.

The Modin Ezerah Research Institute poll published in the daily Maariv newspaper showed that Labour could win 55 seats in the 120-member Knesset, or parliament.

Its centrist and left-wing allies could win eight seats, giving the bloc 63 seats, a three seat majority, according to the poll.

The poll also showed that Labour could control the government without allying with any of the religious parties. No recent government has won enough support to form a government without the help of small religious parties.

The Likud, led by Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, won 41 seats in the election. The poll showed its support has declined to 30 seats.

The poll, taken last week, was the fourth by Modin Ezerah since the election, but the first to give Labour and its allies a majority. The survey showed that ultra-right wing parties were also increasing their level of support.

The Kach Party of American immigrant Rabbi Meir Kahane won four seats in the poll compared with one in the last election. Kahane advocates expelling all Arabs from Israel and Israeli-occupied territory.

The ultra-nationalist Tehiya Party, which won five seats in the last election, also showed a gain of two seats.

Recent voter surveys by other pollsters have indicated an upswing in support for the Labour Party.

Arab League urges solidarity with Iraq

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Arab League Council has ended its 83rd meeting here with a call on Arab countries to display solidarity with Iraq in its conflict with Iran, to defend its own independence and protect the interests of the Arab World.

A final statement urged Arab states to exert utmost efforts to find a speedy solution to the Gulf war and bring about peaceful negotiations that could lead to a just and honourable peace.

The council's statement paid tribute to efforts exerted by an Arab seven member committee charged with pursuing efforts to end the conflict and voiced "concern and regret for the continuation of the war due to Iran's intransigence and its refusal of all peace bids to end its aggression on Iraq."

The council requested the Arab League general secretariat to make a full study of the projected U.S.-Israeli free trade zone agreement and present a report to the council's next session for deliberation.

The council's statement paid tribute to the heroic stand of the Lebanese people in resisting Israeli occupation and decided to set up a special committee comprising Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates, North Yemen and Palestine to study the establishment of a fund for reconstructing devastated regions of Lebanon and Palestinian refugee camps in the occupied areas and help the Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories.

The council also decided to dispatch a special Arab League team to all areas where Palestinians live to study their conditions and the possibility of issuing special passports before submitting this report to Arab ministers of transport for consideration.

It also entrusted Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to set up a special body that can supervise the marketing of West Bank products.

The council endorsed a proposal for holding a symposium to discuss the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people living under Israeli rule and another to discuss the dangers inherent in the Israeli nuclear arms programme.

The statement did not mention member-state Syria's view, forcefully put by Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara during the conference, that Baghdad was to blame for the continuation of the war.

Libya, Algeria and South Yemen also had reservations on a resolution supporting Iraq passed on the opening day of the 21-member Arab League's meeting.

Secretary-General Chadli Klibi in his opening speech called on the permanent Security Council members to act to end the war.

The statement said the League had agreed in principle to give aid to drought-stricken countries in Africa, without saying how much. It also declared a "solidarity week" by Arab countries in support of Israeli-occupied South Lebanon.

Earlier the Arab League council meeting condemned those who helped Jews to emigrate to Israel or Israeli-occupied territories, including Ethiopian "Falasha" Jews, conference sources said.

A draft resolution approved by the 21-member League Council, which began its meeting on Monday, recommended that Secretary-General Chadli Klibi submit a report on the question at the next council session.

Thousands of Falasha Jews were airlifted to Israel in a secret operation which began last year and Libya accused fellow Arab League member Sudan of aiding the evacuation. Ethiopia has said the Falashas are not semitic and demanded their return.

The draft resolution made no mention of Sudan, and the sources said Libya had moderated its stance after the two countries' foreign ministers met at Mr. Klibi's request.

Polisario determined to attend Afro-Arab forum

PARIS (R) — The Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) proclaimed by Polisario guerrillas fighting Morocco for independence of the Western Sahara said it will attend an Afro-Arab ministerial conference in Libya next month despite objections from unnamed states.

In a communiqué published Friday by the Algerian News Agency (APS) monitored in Paris, the SADR said it "reaffirms its decision to take part in all meetings or conferences that concern member states of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU)."

As an OAU member state, the SADR "considers no extra-African party has the right to decide on the quality of participant countries" in the Afro-Arab meeting to be held next month in Tripoli, the Libyan capital.

The communiqué, issued in Bir Lahlou, a waterhole in the Western Sahara, said preparations for the conference "have given rise to insidious rumours and vile speculation regarding the SADR's participation which are, to say the least, unacceptable interferences in Africa's internal affairs."

Without naming countries allegedly opposed to SADR participation, the communiqué said certain Arab parties shared responsibility with Morocco for the war in the Western Sahara.

Libya, host of the Afro-Arab conference, officially recognised the SADR in April 1980 but withdrew its financial and military support from the Polisario after signing a state union treaty with Morocco last August.

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19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Sport School
20:30 Orson Welles
21:00 Perspective
21:15 Saturday Variety Show
22:00 News in English
22:15 Feature Film: Night Terror

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, SW & party on 950 KHz, SW

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
08:45 Pop Session
12:00 News Summary
12:45 Pop Session contd.
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session contd.
14:10 Jordan Weekly
14:30 Music
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Old Favourites
17:00 Talking Points
17:30 Animal Vegetable Mineral
18:00 News Summary
19:00 Top Twenty
19:30 Date with a Star
20:30 The 15th Century A.H.
20:35 The Young Sound
21:00 News Summary

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 Grand National Preview 06:40 Financial News 06:50 Ref-lections 07:00 World News 07:00 News Summary 07:30 About Britain 07:45 The World Today 08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Album Time 08:50 World News 09:00 24 Hours: News Summary 09:30 From the Weeklies 09:45 Network U.K. 10:00 World News 10:05 Reflections 10:15 A Jolly Good Show 11:00 World News 11:05 British Press Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30 Financial News 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 Romantic Piano 12:00 News Summary: Grand National Preview 12:15 Letter from America 12:30 News and Politics 12:45 News About Britain 12:55 About Britain 13:00 Meridian 13:05 Radio News-speak 14:00 Sports Round-up 14:05 World News 14:05 24 Hours: News Summary 14:30 Network U.K. 14:45 Country Music Profile 14:50 News Summary: Music Now 16:30 Album Time 17:00 Radio Newsdesk 17:15 Saturday Special 17:15 World News 18:00 News Summary 18:05 Sports Round-up 18:05 Newsdesk 18:30 Play of the Week: Indian Summer 21:00 News Summary: Indian Summer

VOICE OF AMERICA

1260 MW, 7200, 9565, 11740 11925 and 13210 KHz

06:00 VOA Morning: News, Informal Presentation of Popular Music with Feature Reports, Interviews, Answers to Listeners' Questions, Science Digest, Sports News at 30 minute past the hour. 17:30 News 17:45 This Week 17:50 Press Conference USA 18:00 News 18:10 American viewpoints 18:30 Special English News Features 19:00 News 19:10 Weekend 20:00 News 20:10 Cross-up 20:20 Special English News and Features 21:00 News 21:10 American Viewpoints 21:30 Press Conference USA 22:00 News and Editorial 22:15 Music USA (Jazz) 23:00 Weekend Survey of World News, Correspondents' Reports, Music, Cultural events and Features

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITION

"An Italian art exhibition of oriental paintings at the Royal Cultural Centre."

PLAY

"The Fool" a local play for children at 4:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.

"How the other half lives" at 6:30 p.m. at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel.

VIDEO

"Video technique at 4:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre."

FILMS

"Retour A Marseille" at Cinema Philadelphia and "Moi, Pere Riviere" at the French Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre - Tel. 6610267
American Centre - 44371
Arabian Centre Library - 41520
British Centre - 3614725
French Cultural Centre - 37009
Gothic Institute - 41993
Spanish Cultural Centre - 44203
Soviet Cultural Centre - 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre - 39777
Hays Arts Centre - 665195
Hussein Youth City - 667181
Y.W.C.A. - 41793
Amman Municipal Library - 36111
University of Jordan Library - 843555

MUSEUMS

Rafidra Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also medals from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Ota (Chad Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muncazah, Jabel

Service Clubs

Lines Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.
Lines Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club, Jabel Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261.

Churches

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, tel. 24590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, 37440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, 661757.
Church of the Assumption (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 23541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabel Amman, 25383.
Anglican Catholic Church Asfarah, 711331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Asfarah, 711331.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Asfarah, 711751.
Armenian Evangelical Church (Inter-denominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Surciani, 816534.

Prayer Times

06:00 Fajr
05:26 Sunrise
11:41 Dhuhr
15:13 Asr
17:46 Maghrib
18:15 Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by the Alia Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (06) 52250, 53070, 53082, 53171, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

09:30 Agaba (RJ)
09:30 Dubai, Karachi (RJ)
09:45 Cairo (RJ)
09:45 Kuwait (RJ)
09:55 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:20 Doha (RJ)
10:20 Cairo (MS)
10:20 Beirut (RJ)
10:45 Riyadh (RJ)
10:45 Singapore, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:50 Larnaca, Damascus (RJ)
12:00 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
14:00 Kuwait (KU)
16:00 Baghdad (JA)
17:00 Athens (RJ)
17:30 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)
18:30 Paris, Damascus (AF)
18:30 Cairo (RJ)
19:05 Tripoli (RJ)
20:40 Rome, Damascus (AZ)
20:40 Frankfurt, Damascus (LH)
06:00 Cairo (RJ)
01:10 Baghdad (RJ)
01:30 Bucharest, Larnaca (RJ)

DEPARTURES

06:40 Cairo (RJ)
06:40 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
07:00 Beirut (RJ)
07:15 Agaba (RJ)
08:20 Athens (JA)
08:45 Beirut (MEA)
11:15 Tripoli (RJ)
11:20 Cairo (MS)
11:30 Athens (RJ)
11:40 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
12:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:30 Rome, Paris (RJ)
12:45 Frankfurt (RJ)
14:30 Bahrain (GF)
15:40 Kuwait (KU)
16:40 Cairo (RJ)
17:00 Athens (JA)
19:30 Kuwait (RJ)
20:15 Jeddah (RJ)
20:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
20:40 Cairo (RJ)

MARITIME TRAFFIC

Regular-line ships docking at Agaba port:

— Pegasus
— Al Faridi
— Susebik
— Stone Wallcross
— Euseb Delmas
— Uralgia

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy, with southerly moderate winds. An increase in temperature is expected. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate, with calm sea.

Low/high temperature in deg.C

Amman - 11/23
Agaba - 17/30
Deserts - 11/25
Jordan Valley - 17/30

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 18, Agaba 26. Humidity readings: Amman 58 per cent. Agaba 42 per cent.

MONEY EXCHANGE

Local currency rates in JLD

Belgian franc - 64.2/ 64.7
Dutch guilder - 114.2/ 115.1
Egyptian pound - 305.3/ 305.3
French franc - 42.2/ 42.5
Iraqi dinar - 420.3/ 424.3
Italian lire (for 100) - 20.2/ 20.5
Japanese yen (for 100) - 159.9/ 161.2
Kuwaiti dinar - 1340.6/ 1350
Libanese lira - 117.0/ 117.6
Omani rial - 24.4/ 25.5
Qatari riyal - 111.6/ 112.3
Saudi riyal - 112.1/ 113
Swedish crown - 44.9/ 45.3
Swiss franc - 152.2/ 153.4
Syrian lira - 35.9/ 36.7
UAE dirham - 110.8/ 111.5
U.K. sterling pound - 497.3/ 501.3
U.S. dollar - 405.9/ 408
W. German mark - 129/ 130.3

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Ambulance - 193, 775111
Fire, fire, police - 199
Blood bank - 775121
Civil Defence rescue - 661111
Fire headquarters - 220003
Police rescue - 192, 2111, 37777
Police headquarters - 39141
Traffic police - 36390-1
Electric Power Co. - 36381-2
Municipal water service - 771125
Queen Alia Int. Airport

NEWS IN BRIEF

King to patronise 'Social Work Day'

AMMAN (Petra) — Under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein a celebration of "Social Work Day" will be held on April 4 at the Culture of Palace. Minister of Labour and Social Development Tayseer Abdul Jabbar said that medals will be presented to a number of social workers in appreciation of their efforts. Shields of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) will also be presented to a number of voluntary societies which have proved to be efficient in the social field, Dr. Abdul Jabbar added.

Majali cables Regent

AMMAN (Petra) — University of Jordan President Abdul Salam Al Majali sent a cable to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan the Regent at the conclusion of the Fourth International Conference on the history of Bilad Al Sham. Dr. Majali expressed both his thanks and those of the participants to the Crown Prince for opening the symposium. In his cable, Dr. Majali said that Prince Hassan's active participation in the symposium made good impression on the participants and that his directives contributed significantly to the success of the symposium.

Tunisian trade delegation arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — A Tunisian trade delegation arrived in Amman Friday on a four-day visit to hold talks with senior Jordanian officials on bilateral economic and trade relations. The delegation will meet with officials from the Ministry of Industry and Trade regarding the import of several Jordanian products. During their stay in Jordan, the delegation will also pay visits to a number of Jordanian factories to examine latest industrial developments.

Court sentences embezzler

AMMAN (Petra) — The military court has sentenced Asri Fahad Awwad to one and a half years in prison with hard labour for embezzling public funds. The military governor has endorsed the sentence.

Cabinet decides to retire 27 senior public security officers

AMMAN (Petra) — Twenty-seven senior public security officers, including a major general, have been retired in accordance with a cabinet decision made public Thursday.

A statement carried by the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said that Major General Faleh Al Gharaibeh, Brigadier Qasem Al Su'ub and Brigadier Nazem Khair will be retired as of April 1, 1985. Also on the list of retired officers are 12

colonels, six lieutenant colonels, three with the rank of major and three others with the rank of captain.

In the light of these retirements, Public Security Director Diab Yousef issued a circular announcing transfers of a number of senior public security officers. The transfers include three officers with the rank of colonels, five with the rank of lieutenant colonel, and three with the rank of major.

AUC president praises Jordan's academic level

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — President of the American University of Cairo (AUC) Richard Peterson Thursday praised the academic achievements of Jordanian and Palestinian students attending the AUC and expressed his appreciation for the refined educational system in Jordanian schools, colleges and universities.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Dr. Peterson said that some of the prominent Jordanian ministers and senior government officials are ex-AUC students and added that "Jordanian and Palestinian students have done very well and this was proved through their professional careers".

Dr. Peterson, who has his Ph.D. from Harvard University in political science and international affairs said that he met with His Majesty King Hussein in 1972 during an official visit when he accompanied former American Secretary of State William Rogers. Dr. Peterson has spent almost 25 years in the American foreign service including membership in U.N. delegations which worked with Middle-East affairs. He also worked as an international banker until he was appointed as AUC's president in 1978.

During his two day visit to Jordan, Dr. Peterson said that he met with AUC's Jordanian alumni club as well as making sure that a lot of new students are eager to come and join AUC. The president added that another aim of his visit to Jordan was to collect financial contributions, "especially since AUC needs financial support due to its growing academic programmes and recruitment of staff".

AUC, which started in 1920 with a small body of students who kept increasing, reached a total of 15,000 in 1985. A lot of American, African and Asian students attend AUC due to its selective academic specialisations which are offered at both the Bachelors degree and Masters degree level in social sciences, mass communications, business studies and engineering, he pointed out.

Desert development project

Dr. Peterson went on to say that AUC is currently working on a desert development project on a 700 dunum area in the desert between Cairo and Alexandria and that such a project will contribute to applied studies which have been made. This project includes working on housing projects, agriculture and small-scale industries.

The president expressed his hope to enlarge the computer studies programme offered at AUC which will allow students to obtain

a Bachelors of Science in Computer Science. Dr. Peterson said that a lot of Arab students are admitted to the university every year as well as American students who attend AUC's Arabic courses. However, he said, this increase in students has no clear relationship with the situation in Lebanon which somehow has affected the American University of Beirut which was opened in 1866. Rather, the president said, "students are increasing due to AUC's strong and solid academic majors".

During his two day visit, Dr. Peterson met the vice-presidents of Yarmouk University and the University of Jordan. During their meeting, means of promoting educational ties and programmes were discussed especially since there are a lot of similarities between the Jordanian universities' and AUC's academic courses and academic credit hours. "There is an actual affinity between both universities and the AUC's Dr. Peterson concluded.

The delegation accompanying Dr. Peterson are AUC Public Relations Director Nabil Farouqi, AUC Director of Alumni Affairs Mary Iskandar and AUC Vice President for Student Affairs Mohammad Allam.



MONEY MATTERS — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan the Regent Thursday conferred with a visiting delegation from the World Bank led by Mr. Shaker Shalwan. The two sides discussed bilateral cooperation. The meeting was attended by Central Bank of Jordan Governor Mohammad Sa'ad Al Nabulsi (Petra photo).

Artists, playwrights call for government support to promote Jordanian theatre

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A heated debate, at times bordering on aggression, took place Thursday evening during the third day of a seminar on "Theatre in Jordan." Raising questions for discussion at the seminar, held at the Yarmouk University Liaison Office, Minister of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities and Acting Information Minister Taher Hikmat pressed the audience — mainly theatre directors, actors, drama students, playwrights and theatre lovers — to describe the kind of theatre movement that is really needed in Jordan.

The minister questioned whether there is a real need for theatres in Jordan, are didactic messages only transmitted through a play, should theatre art grow separately from official support and without the need for direct governmental assistance and is the government responsible for supporting theatre art? Finally he questioned whether Jordanian society, with its vast cultural, political, social and economical levels, is in real need for theatre or whether theatre art is only an "obsession", among Jordanian intellectuals.

Mr. Zuhair Noubani, a prominent Jordanian artist, answered the minister's question saying that the question of whether Jordan really needs theatre "is like asking if we really need bread?" He added that there is continuous willful ignorance from the Ministry of Culture vis-a-vis artists and local writers. Mr. Noubani also said that the promotion of art is the responsibility of governments and that this has been proved throughout the world.

Hani Jarrah, a Yarmouk University student at the Faculty of Art Theatre said: "I am curious to get a solid answer regarding the future of theatre in Jordan, especially since I am studying theatre and another acting institute has just opened. I am keen to know why the Ministry of Culture decides to open an acting institute and then Mr. Hikmat asks us if theatre is a real need in Jordan?"

Another participant, Dr. Mufid Hawamdeh, professor at the Faculty of Art Theatre at Yarmouk University, answered the minister's questions saying that there is a need for theatre in any culture, but only when Jordanians are really aware of such a need, will the theatrical movement prosper. He added that theatre is a combination of cultural, intellectual, scientific, historical and political ingredients.

The next participant to speak was Mr. Ussama Al Mashini, a prominent Jordanian actor and producer who said that artists

need support from the Ministry of Culture which should establish a prominent national theatre group. He continued that the Ministry of Education should encourage the theatre movement by including the subject in academic curricula. He also stressed that the current Jordan Theatre Association's (JTA) law should be modified to suit the modern needs of our era. Mr. Mohammad Al Zaher, a Jordanian writer, said the Jordanian constitution law pertaining to publishers and writing rights needs to be amended especially since it is an old Ottoman law. He pointed out that there is a need to establish a laboratory for local scripts and playwrights especially since there is an enormous 'gap' between the Ministry of Culture and local playwrights.

Ahmad Shouqom, vice-president of the JTA said: "We do not want a theatre whose role it is to project political trends." He suggested that the government should conduct solid research on how to revitalise theatres and theatre art in Jordan.

A prominent journalist, Mounieh Samara asked "why do the Ministries of Information and Culture refrain from specifying a defined theatre framework?" Another question came from Jibril Al Sheikh, a writer asked "why is the theatre a landmark of foreign cultures, whereas the minister questions if there is a real need for theatre in Jordan and why is there a need for those countries other than Jordan?" Mr. Sheikh said that Jordan will experience a theatrical movement only if the government shows "sincere intentions" to upgrade the theatre movement.

Dr. Samir Qutami a prominent Jordanian writer and member of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Jordan, said: "Theatre should be developed in the context of using theatre as an instructive and cultural tool and should be available for all social levels of the society." Dr. Qutami also said that Jordan needs the government's support to establish a true theatre movement and added that "theatre immortalises nations more than politicians."

Hatem Al Sayed, a Jordanian director described the minister's question regarding the need for a theatre as someone trying to say "to be or not to be". He added that theatre is a major form of culture and that the theatre promotion should be part of any five year development plan.

Mr. Hikmat, who listened to the participants' questions for more than 30 minutes, finally expressed his hope to modify the JTA law and said that he will establish a national theatre group only if an adequate amount of actors and technical crews are available. He

New link to reduce travel costs, journey time

Jordan, Egypt sign sea-land transport route agreement

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AQABA — Jordan and Egypt Thursday signed a transport agreement under which a sea-land route will link the two countries via Aqaba in Jordan and Nuweibe' in Sinai as from April 25. The route, which will operate after an official inauguration by His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, is expected to reduce the time, freight and travelling expenses between the two countries by 50 per cent.

In a joint press conference held after signing the agreement in its final form, Minister of Transport Farhi Obeid and Egyptian Minister of Transport, Telecommunications and Sea Transport, Suleiman Mutwalli described the route as a "very significant event" as it will re-link the Arab Nation geographically, socially and economically after a separation resulting from the aggressive Israeli invasion of Arab lands in 1948. The ministers also said that it represents a "new era in the history of the two countries."

Several subsidiary agreements have also been signed to complement the agreement, including a contract between the Egyptian Company for Maritime Transport and the Jordan National Shipping Lines Company. This contract allows the two companies to operate a ferryboat line between Nuweibe' and Aqaba — a distance of 68 kilometres. The trip will last about three hours on the ferryboat and another six hours for those bound for Cairo and using a 499 kilometre land route via Suez.

Another contract provides for operating a regular tourist bus line to connect the two capitals. The franchise for the direct bus line was given to the Egyptian General Nile Bus Company for the East Delta and Jordan's Express Tourist Transport Company.

The advantages of the new sea link include reducing transport fees between Amman and Cairo by 40 per cent if prices are fixed at \$40 per passenger, which is equivalent to 50 Egyptian pounds or JD 16, besides a 50 per cent reduction in time.

The new link will also grant youth, educational and sports organisations a 25 per cent reduction

in fares, in addition to facilities provided to those taking this line. In this regard, both countries will offer special passport and duty procedures for passengers and private cars from both countries will be allowed in for a three month period and will be given a special traffic licence to be agreed upon in forthcoming meetings. Cars from other Arab countries will be allowed to enter with international car club licences, according to the agreement.

Commenting on a question about cargo trucks and whether the agreement will help ease the burden of trucks owners in the Kingdom, Mr. Obeid said that all facilities have been arranged in order that truckers benefit from the line. Around 1,200 lorries are currently working between Aqaba and Suez with costs reaching \$800 per truck and costs are further increased by the waste of time as the travelling time ranges from 18 to 24 hours, Mr. Obeid said.

He pointed out that when the new link is operating, travel time will be reduced to 50 per cent and travelling expenses by around 40 per cent which will in turn favourably reflect on goods prices and as result trade bilateral exchange will be boosted. Mr. Obeid said that during his visit to Iraq in

June 1984, Iraq praised the projected link which is expected to increase traffic by three fold in the first year and tens of fold in the near future.

Responding to a question whether trucks have to discharge their cargoes at a special region on the borders, the Egyptian minister pointed out that trucks have the right to discharge their loads at any city in the two countries and to stay in the border area for period of ten days. "We are planning to provide trucks with another cargo on their way out of the country to increase their benefit," added Mr. Mutwalli.

Mr. Obeid said the strategic line is expected to handle approximately 500,000 passengers per year. He also said that two free zones will be set up to serve passengers; one in Aqaba and the other in Nuweibe'. Discussing the ferryboats' capacity, Mr. Obeid said a ferryboat can carry up to 12 trucks, 40 small cars and between 700 and 1,000 passengers.

As for foreign nationalities visiting Aqaba, a senior official from the Egyptian delegation told the Jordan Times that tourists wishing to visit Nuweibe' can obtain permission on the spot from the legal checkpoints at Saint Caterina, Bahah or Sharm Al Sheikh, but first each tourist must change \$150 into local Egyptian currency provided that he returns within a week.

Mr. Obeid said that Nuweibe' and Aqaba have been linked by telephone.

A joint committee presided over by the two ministers has been formed to follow up on and to supervise the process of operating this overland route until it is inaugurated.

Mr. Mutwalli Thursday left for Cairo following the press conference while the Egyptian delegation flew back on Friday.

Egyptian manpower minister tours phosphate factory

AMMAN (Petra) — Visiting Egyptian Minister of Manpower and Training Sa'ad Mohammad Ahmad Thursday visited Al Hasa, phosphates mine in southern Jordan.

The minister, accompanied by a number of Jordanian officials, toured the various sections of the factory and was briefed on its functions and the various equipment used in production.

The news is out. Lufthansa's Airbus comes to Amman.



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Thursday, Saturday, Sunday		
Amman	dep. 06.20	LH 613
Damascus	dep. 08.15	
Frankfurt	arr. 12.05	

Monday		
Amman	dep. 06.50	LH 615
Aleppo	dep. 09.00	
Frankfurt	arr. 12.05	

For further information and reservations contact your nearest IATA travel or cargo agent. Or Lufthansa: Jordan Intercontinental Hotel, Jabel Amman, Tel. 644236/641305/644377.

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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: Inter-Zionist row

ISRAELI GOVERNMENT leaders in the present coalition have been blaming each other for the Israeli involvement in Lebanon and for the failure of the Israeli army to stem the Lebanese resistance there. Ariel Sharon, who was defence minister in the Likud government that launched the invasion, has made a statement shifting the blame on the Labour-led government, only to draw quick and counter reaction from the leaders of the Labour Party.

The present Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin has meanwhile said that there will be no need for the Israeli armed forces to remain in South Lebanon any longer in view of the resistance activities there and the heavy loss of life in Israeli army ranks. These statements reflect the frustration these leaders have met as a result of their adventure in Lebanon and the extent of the defeat at the hands of the Lebanese resistance.

The Israeli leadership ought to take a lesson from the Lebanon adventure and should stop from pursuing its criminal actions against the Arab inhabitants. The great Israeli frustration in Lebanon should remind the Zionist leaders that the time has now come to think seriously about making peace. They should seize the present opportunity chance for ending the Middle East conflict and allow the peace march to go ahead.

Al Dustour: Linking Arab flanks

THE JORDANIAN-Egyptian agreement to operate a maritime line between Aqaba and the Egyptian port of Nueibeh is designed to bolster Arab trade cooperation and pave the way for Arab economic integration in the true sense of the word. This agreement assumes significance because it comes amid divisions and differences that have been tearing the Arab World apart and in view of the external dangers threatening the Arab Nation.

The new agreement forms new bridges to achieve economic, cultural and political integration among the countries of the Arab World, and serves as an example that should be copied by all Arab governments that wish to maintain cooperation and close ties that serve the highest Arab interests. The new maritime route will certainly benefit not only Egypt and Jordan but the whole Arab region as well since it forms a link between the eastern and western flanks of the Arab World and links Africa with Asia.

This route will reduce the cost of transportation between the two sides, thus encouraging trade and economic cooperation. The agreement opens a new chapter in relations among Arab states and paves the way for further bolstering of relations among them.

Sawt Al Shaab: Old advantageous friendship

THE JORDANIAN-Spanish relations draw their origin from deep historic roots and common heritage, and have been founded on friendship, cooperation and mutual respect. These relations, as King Hussein said in his speech at the Spanish town of Seville, have been based on both countries' firm belief in justice and freedom. Spain, as King Hussein did not fail to mention, has always supported the Arab just cause and the Arab people's endeavours to achieve justice and freedom in the face of aggression. Spain has been adopting this pro-Arab stand in view of the strong ties between its people and the Arab Nation over the ages and in view of the fact that both had in the past cooperated in blending a significant civilisation.

No doubt, the King's present visit to Spain, which comes as another link in the close cooperation between the two nations, will help promote the ties between them further, and the talks between the two monarchs will help promote the Arab just cause within Europe and the European Community, and above all will serve the higher interests of the Arab and Spanish nations.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: Alliance even in space

ISRAEL IS one of America's allies which have been urged by Washington to take part in a research for a space-based missile defence system. The U.S. Defence Secretary wrote to the governments of Japan, Australia and Israel among others urging them to participate in this endeavour whose cost is expected to run into billions of dollars. Involving the Israel in a U.S. research programme means giving the Israelis a maximum strength impossible for the Arabs to catch up with.

Opening the doors for Israel to join the U.S. armaments programme means a new connivance between the two allies are about to start, directed against the Arab Nation. This invitation is an open encouragement on the part of the American administration to Israel to pursue its arrogant and intransigent line and to refuse any U.N. resolutions for the implementation of peaceful settlements in the Middle East.

The American bid is another evidence that Washington supports the evil intentions of the Zionist leaders in our region and strengthens our belief that the U.S.-Israeli alliance is determined to impose a hegemony over our region. This prompts the Arabs to take retaliatory steps and should encourage them to hold speedy contacts with the Soviet Union to thwart the new conspiracy.

Al Dustour: Frustrating Arab situation

FAILURE BY Arab delegates at the Arab League in Tunis to agree on basic topics like the reconstruction of South Lebanon and supporting the Iraqi people in the face of Iranian aggression reflects the deep divisions among Arab governments. The lack of a strategy among Arab states to deal with basic issues has been hampering the work of the Arab League and as long as the situation persists there can be no hope of achieving anything at all on the pan-Arab level.

Arab support for the Iraqi people is a basic issue for the Arab League, and all Arabs should rally to support a sister state in accordance with the Arab League defence pact, but unfortunately, the Arabs cannot agree on this point. A humanitarian issue like helping the Lebanese to rebuild their war-devastated country should also attract the attention of the Arab countries, but unfortunately this too has been ignored by many governments, rendering the Arab League efforts futile.

We are watching the situation with great pain and frustration and hope Arab governments can in the end overcome their differences in view of the seriousness of the situation prevailing in the Arab region and the dangers that threaten the future of every Arab state.

U.S. reluctant to resume Mideast role

By David B. Ottaway

EGYPT AND Israel, America's two "peace partners" in the Middle East, have come to depend so much on U.S. economic and political support that they have almost become client states. Despite this potential leverage, however, the United States seems unable or unwilling to force either ally to make economic reforms or resolve their political differences.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's recent visit to Washington underscored this paradox. He came looking for a big boost in economic assistance and greater American activism in the deadlocked Middle East peace process. He left without a U.S. commitment on either front, and with the message that the Arabs must try harder before Washington will reengage itself fully in the search for a settlement of the Palestinian issue.

In an emotional speech before the National Press Club, the Egyptian leader had said the United States remained uniquely placed to play "a pivotal role" in helping

to achieve a settlement of the Palestinian issue. "Some have suggested that the United States should wait and see how things develop. In effect, the proponents of this view advocate inaction as a line of policy," he said. "I beg to differ. This is almost a defeatist approach based on a series of wrong premises... You can not say, 'I am waiting until the parties agree on everything before I step in'. The role of a great country like the United States is not simply to endorse what was agreed upon, rather, it is to help the parties reach agreement."

Administration officials briefing reporters on the Mubarak initiative have repeatedly said Washington is not interested in doing anything that smacks of "prenegotiating the American position" toward new peace talks or that amounts to a recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organisation before it has formally recognised the existence of Israel by endorsing U.N. Security Council Resolution 242.

Mr. Mubarak apparently sought in vain to convince the president that the United States should ac-

cept the Feb. 11 agreement between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as an "unequivocal and unambiguous" statement of the Palestinian acceptance of this resolution, which the United States insists must form the basis of any new U.S.-supported Arab-Israeli negotiations.

The Jordanian-Palestinian agreement backed all U.N. Security Council resolutions on the Middle East but failed to mention 242 specifically. Resolution 242, adopted after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, calls for an Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab lands in return for a guarantee of peace and secure borders for the Jewish state. But it makes no mention of the Palestinians as more than a "refugee problem."

The Egyptian leader insisted Mr. Arafat's signature on the Feb. 11 accord represented his "firm commitment" to the resolution, saying there was no need for a specific mention of a certain document. "What counts is substance, not form," he said in his speech. "They said agreement leads inevitably to direct (Arab-Israeli)

negotiations." Earlier at a meeting with Washington Post editors and reporters, Mr. Mubarak said he was sure the PLO was ready to accept Resolution 242 "clearly" and would do so "whenever they are secure they are going to have something."

In reply to a question about what he would do if the Reagan administration refused to deal with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, Mr. Mubarak revealed some of his own uncertainty — and frustration — about where his own initiative to start a three-stage negotiating process was leading. "Frankly, I don't know," he said. "I can't tell you. You are going to lose. We are going to lose. Terrorism will start and problems will be much more complicated in the area. That's why I'm urging the United States to make a dialogue, please."

The American caution appears to reflect Washington's bitter experience in brokering the abortive peace treaty between Lebanon and Israel in 1982-83, and its doubts about whether Egypt and Jordan can deliver this time in face of Palestinian divisions, open Syr-

ian opposition, and Saudi silence. "We're not fully engaged," a senior administration official conceded. "It's not clear yet what we can accomplish... Is this the moment? This is the question that hasn't been answered."

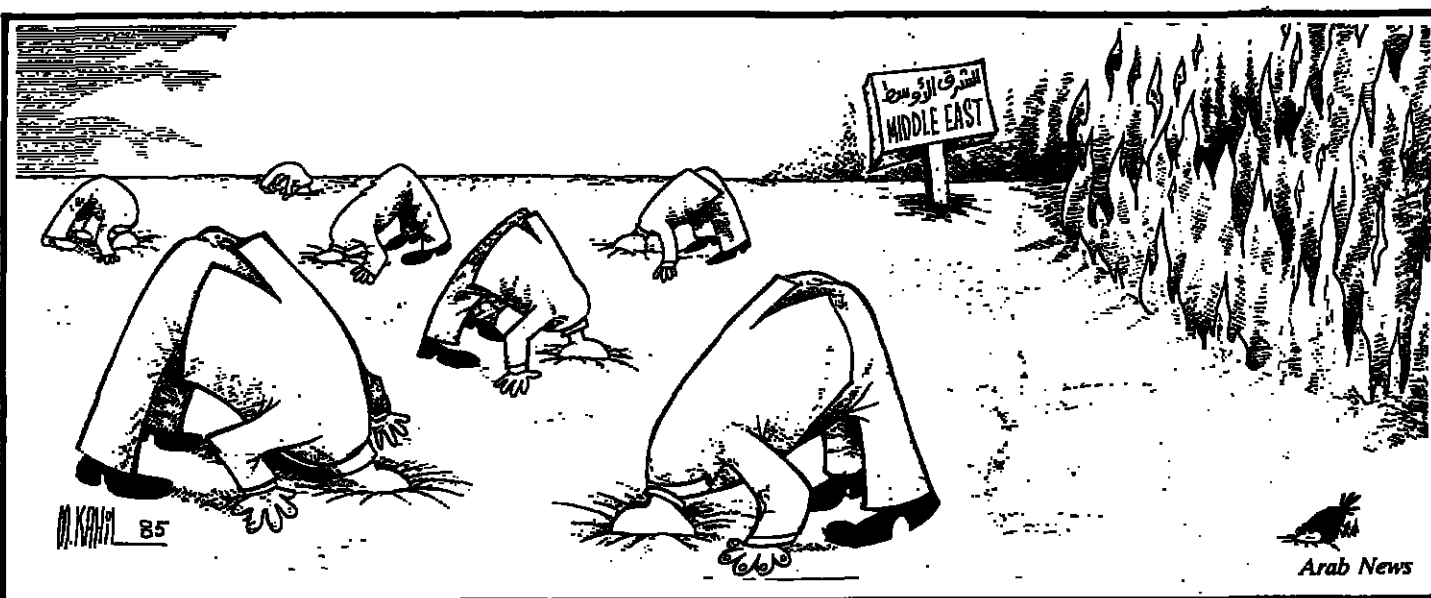
Mr. Mubarak's visit also pointed up the even more pressing issue of what the United States should do to help the two Mideast nations deal with debts and mounting economic woes. For years, the United States has been struggling, mostly in vain, to nudge one Egyptian government after another towards basic fiscal and economic reforms. Now, it is doing the same thing with Israel, whose economy is in far worse shape.

In both countries Washington is cast in the outside-reformer role usually played, with more influence and success, by the International Monetary Fund. Neither the administration nor Congress has begun to focus seriously on the implications of the two countries' growing dependence on Washington, or on the disturbing trend of an increasingly large por-

portion of U.S. aid being used to help pay their military debts to the United States rather than to deal with underlying economic problems.

"We're on a treadmill. We don't have country strategies to avoid all our economic aid being spent on paying back the military debt," said one congressional staff aide. "Nobody has gotten the interagency process to focus on what to do."

Both Egypt and Israel are turning increasingly to Washington for bigger handouts, lower interest rates, or outright debt forgiveness. Already, the two consume 40 per cent of U.S. foreign aid. Egypt is requesting about \$1.8 billion in additional funds in fiscal 1985 and 1986, and Israel at least \$1.5 billion. Egypt's total foreign debt approaches \$30 billion, while Israel's stands at \$24 billion. Of these debts, Israel owes about \$10 billion to the United States, and Egypt, around \$8 billion. Both now spend more than 30 per cent of their annual foreign-exchange earnings to service their debts. — The Washington Post.



Can Costa Rica remain 'neutral'?

Costa Rica is a haven of peace in embattled Central America. It has no standing army and an official policy of neutrality. But Robert Graham, recently in San Jose, reports that it is not that easy to ignore the conflicts next door.

COSTA Rica's civil guard has a special all-guitar band that entertains up and down the country. Performing for embassies and in front of foreign delegations, the leader, a chubby sergeant, has a standard throwaway line: "In our country the civil guard plays with guitars, not bullets." One of the songs lustily sung proceeds to extol the virtues of Costa Rica as "the Switzerland of Central America."

Costa Rica impresses on all its visitors the message of its neutrality, which was announced formally by President Luis Alberto Monge on Nov. 17, 1983. But neutrality is proving easier to declare than to observe.

Given a long northern border with Nicaragua, President Monge walks a continuous tightrope to avoid being sucked directly into the Central American conflict. The difficulties of keeping balance were well illustrated recently when Costa Rica decided to boycott a meeting of the four-nation Contadora meeting. The meeting had been called in Panama to discuss changes in a proposed peace treaty for Central America.

Costa Rica refused to attend because of a diplomatic row with Nicaragua over the right of asylum of a student who had taken refuge in the Costa Rican embassy in Managua. The boycott was coordinated with, and supported by, El Salvador and Honduras. As a result the meeting was cancelled and all progress on the peace treaty proposed by Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela has been blocked.

The move delighted the right-

wing, which controls most of the media in Costa Rica. The main newspapers have been exhorting President Monge to take a tougher line against the Marxist-orientated Sandinista government.

It was partly their coverage of the affair, blowing it up into a matter of state, which forced President Monge's hand and made him drop his usual caution. The facts surrounding the incident remain obscure. The student, Jose Manuel Urbina Lara, did seek refuge in the embassy but then proceeded to go in and out and it was on one of these occasions, on Dec. 24, that he was arrested by Nicaraguan soldiers outside the embassy.

Mr. Carlos Jose Gutierrez, the Costa Rican foreign minister, maintains that the right of asylum should be respected by Nicaragua and that if it is not so respected then the Sandinistas cannot be trusted to respect any regional peace treaty. The Costa Ricans insist that the student should be handed over to them as a precondition to further talks on the Contadora peace plan.

The incident touches the most sensitive aspect of Costa Rica's neutrality — it has granted asylum to a large number of anti-Sandinista elements and permits Nicaraguan rebels to carry out political activity.

There are now over 8,100 registered Nicaraguan refugees in the country and perhaps the same number again unregistered. Among these are members of the main anti-Sandinista rebel groups — the revolutionary alliance

Arde, led by the Sandinista commander-turned-rebel Eden Pastora, the Democratic Front (SDM) and the Miskito Indian group, Misurasata.

Along the remote and wild-jungle border with Nicaragua, the rebel groups are able to use Costa Rica as a safe rear base. "There appears to be an understanding that such operations can be conducted provided nothing directly implicates Costa Rica. But there have been a number of border clashes, some involving Costa Rica's civil guard, with the Nicaraguans. The anti-Sandinista rebels are also expected to keep a low profile in the capital, San Jose. A prominent member of Arde was expelled recently for publicly seeking funds for military action against Nicaragua."

In practical terms, Costa Rica can do little to control these people. The civil guard numbers just over 7,000. There is no standing army. It was abolished in 1948 in a remarkable gesture by the then President Jose Figueres, who had no real military tradition, was small enough in size and its population sufficiently educated to do without the armed forces as an institution.

Opinion polls show that Costa Ricans still overwhelmingly support the absence of a standing army and back the idea of neutrality. Since 1983, 500 members of the civil guard have been trained in Panama or at Fort Benning in the U.S. A further 1,000 are being trained inside Costa Rica by U.S. military advisers. During this time the U.S. has begun to renew military aid (stopped since 1967) on a small scale to increase the civil guard's mobility and surveillance capacity. New supplies include

jeeps, patrol craft and helicopters. The Reagan administration has tried to push the Costa Ricans further.

Indeed, it was partly these pressures and those from anti-Sandinista "politicians" in Costa Rica that made President Monge declare neutrality. This neutrality has not been recognised formally by any state and the U.S. in particular has been merely full of praise for President Monge's statesmanship.

The American commitment to Costa Rica is underlined by the \$305 million pumped in between 1982 and 1984 in budgetary support. Of this \$137 million was in grants. Budgetary support this year will be \$160 million and without this Costa Rica would be extremely hard pressed. It is already stretched in servicing its debt.

But President Monge knows he can only resist so far. He has, for instance, allowed a Voice of America transmitter to be stationed near the Nicaraguan border and it is due to begin broadcasting shortly. His margin for manoeuvre lies in the conflicting strands of policy in Washington.

On one hand the hardliners in the CIA and Pentagon want to see Costa Rica cooperate more openly with Honduras and El Salvador in circling Nicaragua. On the other hand, opinion mainly represented by the State Department believes it important to retain at least the fiction of Costa Rica's neutrality in the Central American conflict.

If Costa Rica becomes too deeply embroiled, it risks its reputation for stability and would lose the confidence of the many investors and tourists who have come to regard the country as a haven of peace in a troubled region — Financial Times news feature.

L.America debt crisis not over

By Peter Torday
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Latin America is proving a persistent source of worry for U.S. bankers and officials who say that the region's massively indebted countries are failing to take the steps needed to achieve financial stability.

The bankers see disturbing signs that Latin Nations are not implementing the economic reforms which were called for in return for an aid plan worked out in 1982 by the U.S. financial authorities and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

But as the bankers urge more financial discipline and the IMF withholds funds from countries such as Brazil and Argentina that fail to meet its targets, the cry from the other end of the continent is that a further bout of austerity could trigger social and political upheaval.

Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) President Antonio Ortiz Mena probably spoke for many Latin American politicians and trade union leaders when he delivered the opening address to the regional aid bank's annual conference in Vienna this week.

"In several of our countries, the per-capita income levels today are comparable to those of a decade ago, in some they have regressed to levels which prevailed a generation ago," he said, pointing out that austerity measures had cut social spending and diverted scarce resources towards increasing exports and output.

The 1982 plan appeared to avert economic catastrophe, as well as the spectre of a collapse in the U.S. banking system, by ensuring that the Latin debtors, which owe foreigners some \$360 billion, could service their debts.

But recently the IMF, overseer of the global financial system, postponed rescue loans to Argentina, which owes some \$48 billion, pending deep reforms to deal with a runaway annual inflation rate of about 800 per cent. It also cut off loans to Brazil, the area's biggest debtor, owing over \$100 billion, for failing to carry out economic reforms.

Some analysts believe these countries and others such as Bolivia and Mexico can only escape from the debt crisis if they implement sweeping internal reforms to supplement the rescue package put together by the international financial community.

"They do enjoy a period of greater stability to service their debts (due to the 1982 rescue plan), but their internal economic situation has in some cases deteriorated.

They may have seriously underestimated the task ahead," said a top U.S. Treasury official.

Typically, IMF reforms include currency devaluations, spending cuts, tight credit and strict import controls. They have vastly improved export earnings when carried out and the region as a whole managed a 10 per cent rise in exports in 1984.

But such discipline has proved hard to sell in what is already one of the world's poorest areas.

Among the two biggest debtors, strong union opposition has dogged President Raul Alfonsin's drive to impose lasting reforms in Argentina and the new civilian government of President Tancredino Neves is expected to face similar problems in Brazil.

Only Mexico, which owes slightly less than Brazil, is held up as the closest thing to a success story, and even there some U.S. officials fear that challenges to the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party in elections this summer may tempt the government to boost spending.

In all three cases, commercial banks have agreed to stretch out debt repayments thanks to IMF assurances that the countries will become creditworthy again. None of the pacts has yet been signed, but both Mexico and Argentina announced just before the IADB meeting that they had made progress towards striking deals with the banks.

It's a delicate time. If those bank deals aren't signed and if things go the wrong way, they could unravel," the Treasury official said.

On the positive side, analysts noted the IMF action against Brazil did not rock financial markets. They said Brazil has plentiful reserves to service its debts and the banks, sensitive to the change of government, have kept trade financing and bank-to-bank credit lines open.

Officials stress that Latin America has profited from global economic recovery which opened their export markets and gave a much-needed boost to foreign reserves. Lower U.S. interest rates have also eased the repayment burden and prospects for further falls and a weaker dollar will be welcomed by the debtors.

They say the United States is considering a conference of Western and Latin American foreign ministers, along with a possible trade pact with the region.

However Washington will not back further funds for debt relief, a point it will make plain when the whole issue is reviewed at an IMF meeting in April, officials said.



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Writers are no better or worse than others



Talking straight
Marwan Muasher

THE LAST time I wrote about the writing profession was more than a year ago. I had meant that article to be funny, but certain statements in it were taken out of context, and I was accused by many of over-dramatising the role writers play in society.

I find myself today writing about the subject again, although with a more serious tone this time. I guess that every now and then people tend to get philosophical about what they do. Being a writer gives one the unfair advantage of publicly uncovering one's own thoughts about the subject, evaluating the profession in general, and in the process, implicitly making judgements about one's own self.

I feel, rightly or wrongly, that writers in general, and journalists in particular, are under constant and considerable pressure in Jordan, some of it internally generated. Writers here are often accused of being too subjective, superficial or jud-

gemental. I think it is fair to say that neither the government nor the public is satisfied with writers in general, although not always for the same reasons.

We have three Arabic and two English newspapers in Jordan. Among them, there is a wide spectrum of writers that present their different ideas to the public each day. There are good writers, bad writers, and mediocre writers. There are old, young, conservative, liberal, confident, confused, sensible and careless writers just to name a few of the qualities that can be attributed to human beings in general. There is one thing in common amongst them all: They write in Jordanian newspapers about Jordanian subjects or subjects of interest to Jordanians.

Because of this huge and constant exposure of ideas to society, a lot of writing can be controversial, misunderstood, or worthless. Something that I have always ridiculed before was this habit of proclaiming

love by writers of their country. Whereas I still think some of it is hypocritical, I am better able to understand it now. A writer often proclaims his love not because of a notion of monopoly for that love, nor because of a claim that it is superior to that of others. Rather, it is often out of a need to justify oneself in a world that does not often accept different ideas with an open mind, and accuses those with off-the-normal ideas with disloyalty.

That is not to say writers do not make mistakes. In a profession where all of one's products are documented and shown to the public at large, the repercussions of a mistake are greater than an error of judgement made by, say, someone in an office where few people might take notice of it. Hence the fact that writers sometimes are too careful not to offend anybody.

This is what I want to write about today: The free exchange of ideas. And this is the

price one has to pay for that exchange. This is so because ideas do not come out instantly refined or perfectly shaped. More often than not, they are raw, virgin, presented to society which studies them, refines them, moulds them, refines them, or rejects them altogether. Out of this vast sea of ideas, a few good ones, as goodness is defined by society, are sustained and used to help society progress.

The process is in a lot of ways similar to that of scientific research, where a finished product is never ready for society's use before the conclusion of so many research projects and results, which taken individually, might seem very insignificant. The patient accumulation and integration of all these results, and the rejection of so many other ideas that did not work out but were nevertheless considered, results in that finished product.

To hope for a better society necessarily means to account

for the mistakes, the dead-ends, the bad ideas. The ongoing debate and the free exchange of ideas, bizzare as some of them might seem, was and will always be one of the first prerequisites for the progress of any society.

This is where a writer's role can be helpful. Writers are human beings. Like everyone else, they have their frustrations, their hopes, and their visions. They differ from everybody else in that they translate all these feelings into words, and present them to the marketplace for discussion, where they would be accepted or rejected. Both processes are healthy. They sustain an ongoing debate in society's collective mind on where it should head, and continuously upgrade information fed to that society.

Writers do not have answers to everything. Their ideas are no different from those of other people, except in the slight edge their profession

might give them in structuring these ideas into words. Writers, however, do not live outside of this society. They are as much a part of it as anyone else. Their worries, aspirations, ideas and loyalties are therefore not different from those of other sectors in society. They merely act as spokesmen for the different ideas floating in town. To the best of their ability, they write, usually with a strong motive, to try to improve, as they see fit, the quality of life of the society they live in.

It is never an easy position for a writer to write in defence of other writers. The intent here is not to score points, nor to inflate writers' roles or diminish those of others. In fact, the point is just that: Writers are no better or worse than anybody else.

That is why I stand against the over-caution our writers sometimes exhibit. I feel that for some reason or another, journalists often refrain from

talking about subjects of importance to the country lest they offend people. As long as we understand and respect the free exchange of ideas, I see no reason for fear.

Everyone makes mistakes. Writers are no exception. If they commit an error of judgement, the arena is always open for rebuttals by opposing arguments. (This, by the way, judging from the frequency of letters to the editor, is a forum sadly neglected by the public). If they commit an offence punishable by law, they can be brought to trial, just like everybody else.

But to be over-cautious, or not to believe in a free exchange of ideas, is, in my opinion, to go back in time. This country needs all the human resources it can get. It certainly needs a constant intake of ideas to keep it as fresh and young as it has ever been. Let us not do it a disservice by refusing to share in its growth.

Channel 6 has a new look

By John Boteler

FIRST THINGS first. Tonight's feature film is "Night Terror". When Carol, the heroine, learns that her son has been hospitalised in a serious condition several hundred miles away and that her out-of-town husband cannot be reached, she is forced to drive alone from Phoenix, Arizona, to Denver, Colorado. However, this potentially fraught scenario is, in reality, pretty small beer, for unspeakable horror lurks! Very late at night and nearly out of petrol in an unfamiliar area, Carol notices a highway patrolman giving a speeder a ticket and she approaches him for directions to the nearest petrol station. The officer is suddenly shot down by the speeder, who manages to get a good look at Carol before she drives off in terror. With the killer in relentless pursuit, poor Carol faces a ghastly night of terror. At least it should take her mind off her son, and she can ponder on the wisdom of having a full tank!

Tomorrow, (Sunday), continues in its present vein of body blows to the sensibilities, (Crime Inc., Cancer Confrontation), with "Assassins Among Us", a documentary special on the various nuts, loonies, and politically motivated heavies who over the years have tried, and frequently succeeded, to affect a summary change in the American presidency, without having to resort to all that boring palaver about elections. It will be interesting to see whether the programme reverts to the rather tired notion of Lee Harvey Oswald as the man who killed Kennedy. Also included will be John Hinckley, who attempted to shoot Reagan in order to impress an actress he was besotted with, but who wouldn't answer his letters. I don't think I blame her. In "Scarecrow and Mrs. King" (10:15), Amanda and Lee are on the trail of yet another Soviet agent out to steal maps of missile bases. This is fairly irrelevant, the burning issue is whether hunky Lee is going to sweep Amanda off her feet and save her from boring Dean. This may well be his last chance, because, (fanfare of trumpets), Monday is the start of the new cycle on Channel 6!

Yes, my faithful readers, it is time to say goodbye to our old friends. Alger Hiss, languishing in jail, (unless he died last night, poor man), Stephen Sorrell, (who definitely did die, in the most painful and drawn-out manner) and Jenny, who unfortunately is still hale and hearty, even though Daddy did give her a good verbal roughing up. They, and others too numerous to mention, have departed, and a whole new cast of characters is waiting in the wings. First is Julian Bream, the famous classical guitarist who, at 8:30 on Mondays, will be entertaining us with selections of Spanish guitar music. (Be a bit silly if he played the drums, wouldn't it). He performs in some of Spain's most magnificent old buildings and beautiful landscapes, creating through his performances a visual evocation of the culture, history and society that has given birth to the music. Each programme travels between Spain's past and present and includes a wealth of historical documentation — paintings, manuscripts, period instruments, as well as life in Spain today. "Guitarra" is an eight part series, and the first episode concerns itself with "The Golden Age". At 9:10 there is another eight part series, "George Washington", which traces the history of the first president from his childhood, (since Monday is April 1,

will he claim that chopping down that cherry tree was merely an April Fool?), to his retirement in 1783. An all star cast includes some of the true greats — James Mason, Trevor Howard and Jeremy Kemp, and some more questionable ones, such as Jaclyn Smith, another one of "Charlie's Angels".

Apart from losing the American War of Independence, the British Empire comes in for some more battering on Tuesdays, with "The Last Place on Earth". This, the dramatised story of the race of Captain Scott and Amundsen to be the first man to reach the South Pole has been causing quite a fuss in England, where it has just been screened. The problem is that the director Trevor Griffiths, (damned-Marxist, as some would have it), has refused to continue the old myth of the brave Captain Scott who died heroically in the attempt, like all good Englishmen should. Griffiths recalls his own grand-mother, telling him that Scott was a great man who had had bad luck and that Amundsen was a liar and a cheat who ate his dogs. Amundsen, in fact, was a professional Arctic explorer, while Scott was an amateur. Amundsen used Huskies for his attempt, while Scott insisted on walking. (Mad dogs and Englishmen?). While Scott and his party died from cold and malnutrition just twelve miles from base, Amundsen and his men actually returned to base camp several pounds heavier than when they set out. However, this is not all. Griffiths, (or rather Roland Huntford, whose book "Scott and Amundsen" inspired Griffiths), claims that Scott (played by strong, silent, broody and taciturn Martin Shaw — who played either Dodo or Boil in "The Professionals"), was inspired to undertake his fatal mission by his vain and ambitious wife Kathleen, (played by Susan Wooldridge, acclaimed for her portrayal of Daphne Manners in "The Jewel In The Crown"). Whether or not this is true is one of the main bones of contention, but, as Huntford points out, when Scott's diaries were published, some sixty passages and references had been cut from them by Kathleen. "Those cuts", he says, "were in the main either brutal character attacks on the other members of the expedition or tormented self-criticisms of Scott's own part in the failure". While in future weeks the episodes will last for one hour, from 9:10, the opening instalment is a bumper, nearly two-hour helping. While Scott, spurred on by his wife, ("only a hero can be the father of my son"), learns of Shackleton's failure in trying to steal a march on Scott, an old and bitter rival, Amundsen is in London, stealthily laying his own plans. Some cite this as evidence of the Norwegian's bad sportsmanship, but, as Captain Oates, (one of Scott's crew, of whom more anon), said: "They say Amundsen has been underhand in the way he has gone about it but I personally don't see it is underhand to keep your mouth shut". We shall see. "The Last Place on Earth" is followed each week at 10:15 by a feature film.

At 9:10 on Wednesdays there is a documentary series, "The New Pacific". The Pacific Basin contains a third of the world's population. It is represented all the major races of mankind, every kind of society and social organisation, every stage of human development and each of the world's great religions — Islam in Indonesia, Buddhism in Japan, Confucianism in China and Korea, Hinduism in Fiji, and Christianity in the United States and throughout the South Pacific Islands. No other region in the world

contains so great a diversity of race, language, culture and colour of skin. Yet with the rapid development of trade, tourism and telecommunications, the peoples of the Pacific are being brought closer together, and are experiencing challenges to their traditional lifestyles as never before. How much are island nations and their cultures being taken over by American values, Japanese High-Tech and Chinese Kung-Fu? How are they coping with jumbo jet loads of tourists, high-rise hotels and video nasties? How can they fight back to preserve their own unique identities, protect their land and teach their own history to their children? In cultural terms what is the source of strength which has enabled the countries of the north-west Pacific to forge ahead whilst those of the West have been at a standstill? Strategically the Pacific is one of the West's most important spheres of influence. What price do islanders pay for being in the United States' military backyard? How do those who suffered under Japanese occupation in the Pacific war now react to Japanese economic domination? An awful lot of questions, but let's hope that this eight part series answers them all.

For contrast Thursday at 9:10 offers a four-part mini-series, "All The Rivers Run". Apparently there are two heroes in this: "Philadelphia", the paddle-steamer, and the girl Philadelphia. The latter, orphaned at eighteen, becomes the owner of the former, and emerges eleven years later as the first licensed riverboat captain on the Murry river in south-west Australia — meanwhile having married ladies' man Brenton Edwards, the "Philadelphia" mate. Adapted from Nancy Cato's best-selling novel of the same name, "All The Rivers Run" is set against the colourful background of the brash, bawdy, brawling river-ports of Echuca on the Murry. The 1890's saw turbulent times in Australia, where collapse followed the great 1880's land-boom. Bankruptcies succeeded wealth, strikes brought out the militia, and social struggles abounded. In Adelaide, women got the vote and in Melbourne the first Federal Parliament opened, with Federation from the British Empire (it's that theme again!), celebrated everywhere. Echuca itself, at that time a roaring town with seventy-five hotels and seven brothels to accommodate the river men, is the setting for Delia's life and loves. She visits Melbourne to study painting and to daily with the more polished society and emotions of the art world: although Melbourne too has its share of hustle and bustle, freshly crumpled as it was with cable cars and new-fangled bicycles. But Echuca is where her heart finally lies, with her beloved Brenton Edwards. Ahhhh!!!

Comedy is looking very healthy in the new cycle with both the stars of "To the Manor Born". Peter Bowles and Penelope Keith, starting in different series, "The Boudier", (Wednesdays at 8:30), stars both Bowles — who we saw recently in "Lyttelton's Diary" and George Coles, (Arthur Daley in

"The Minder"), Bowles is Howard — suave, sophisticated, imaginative, not very scrupulous about money, or working to get it, and, incidentally, just out of prison! He descends on his sister, who adores him and for whom he can do no wrong, and whose husband Trevor, (Coles), is everything that Howard is not — bring, untidy, tired, and honest. There is also a neighbour, recently widowed and rich Laura, who immediately catches Howard's eye. This seven part

series is pure delight. "Moving" is on Fridays at 8:30, and stars gloriously haughty Penelope Keith, in a comedy about that contemporary nightmare — moving house. Sarah and Frank are both the wrong side of forty. "After our children left home, the house was too big for us. I persuaded Frank, my husband, we should sell it, move into a flat, and then I could start a new career; it sounded simple. Lots of people have been to see the house; if only someone would buy it." "Charles in Charge" is the Thursday comedy show at 8:30. The promotional material has this to say: Charles is a nineteen year old college student and nanny to Jill and Stan Pembroke's three children. An honest, bright, energetic young man, Charles resides in the Pembroke home in New Brunswick, New Jersey while studying and caring for Lila, an aware and vivacious fourteen-year-old, Jason, a bright friendly ten-year-old who loves sports, and Douglas, a brilliant and eccentric twelve-year-old hooked on computer games. Jill and Stan Pembroke are an articulate and literary couple: she is the second string arts critic for a local newspaper, he is a highly successful vice-president. Their home is warm, amiable and... ye Gods, is this possible? Am I going to be wishing fondly for a return of "Star Of The Family"?

But perhaps your tastes run to murder, violence, and "witty" backtalk. We've seen an ex-judge team up with an ex-con, ("Hardcastle and McCormick"), a secret agent with a suburban housewife, ("Scarecrow and Mrs. King"), and a mysterious Englishman with an American private detective, ("Remington Steele"). How about an American cop who teams up with an English woman police sergeant? Or two Chicago policemen who enrol in the Honolulu police force? The last mentioned is the scenario for "Hawaiian Heat", (Mondays, 10:15). Mac and Andy are the two policemen who trade the freezing Illinois winters for the sun and sand of Hawaii. I would have thought that part of the world was getting a bit crowded what with Magnum and McGarrett of Hawaii Five-O, but let it pass. "Dempsey and MacSpice", (Thursdays, 10:15), on the other hand, is an English production which teams up the strong arms of the law in England and America. Michael Brandon, who stars as Dempsey, is very proud of the fact that he has not had his teeth fixed-up in the usual Hollywood manner, that he hasn't had a nose-job, and he is especially proud of his ears, which have little golden hairs growing along their outer rims. As regards the programme itself, we'll just have to wait and see.

Those older readers who remember "The Fugitive" may well be experiencing a slight case of Deja-Vu on Fridays, with the new series "Hot Pursuit". One minute Jim and Kate Wyler are a happy, ordinary couple. The next, they are fugitives on the run from the cops and a hired killer. Their world is suddenly shattered when Kate is accused and convicted of murdering her boss, automobile magnate Victor Modrian. But Jim suspects that Kate was framed by Modrian's wife, and he is forced to risk everything to save Kate. There is only one course of action left open to him — to break her out of jail and make a run for it. The first episode is a two-hour pilot, starting at 9:10.

The new series at 8:30 on Saturdays is... but wait. I think I've gone on for quite long enough, and Saturday and Sunday can wait until next week. See you then!!!

A Palestinian woman who saw it all

By Sana Atiyeh

AMMAN — It is women like the Palestinian widow Um Jihad (Mother of Jihad, which means struggle, although it has a much stronger implication that has no exact translation in English) who give hope to Palestinian people that someday their land will return to them. It is women like Um Jihad who keep the struggle going against Israel's occupation of Palestine, who endure and fight the hardships and injustice of oppression in the West Bank, who keep the Palestinian heritage alive: They are the true Palestinian women.

What is so special about Um Jihad, although many other women share the same pain, is that she shows her emotions aside and looks at the Palestinian struggle in the West Bank objectively, even though she is personally involved. Her eldest son, Jihad, is a political prisoner in Israeli prisons since 1968 — since he was a young man of 20. Um Jihad, in her long traditional Palestinian dress, tells her story to the Jordan Times: Her son was a resistance fighter in the West Bank, where he was sought by the Israeli occupation authorities. Jihad hid from them for six months before he was caught. Despite the fact that his mother knew where he was, and would somehow sneak food to him, she always denied his whereabouts even when her other children's lives were threatened. She says in her heavy village accent, "Every other night for six months an Israeli force would come to my home-

and stay till two in the morning, threatening to shoot my young children if I would not confess where Jihad was hiding. I used to tell them to go away because I had not seen him." Her husband had also to go into hiding because the Israelis tortured him so harshly, in order to extract information from him, that he could not suffer being tortured repeatedly. Um Jihad says that at a certain point, when the guns were at her children's heads for a long period of time, she began shouting and swearing at the 50-member force, leaving them no room to speak, shout, or threaten any more. "After seeing all that hell from them, I was never afraid to swear and shout at them — I did not care what would happen."

One of Um Jihad's sons, then only 16, had his share of intimidation for half a year. Guns were at his head for hours.

"One time," his mother told the Jordan Times, "the army hung him head down with a rope from a helicopter and made him shout out Jihad's name to come out."

"How much can a young boy take?" she exclaimed, "he once told them that Jihad had come to our home and that his father had thrown him out." Um Jihad's old house and half of her furniture was blown up with dynamite by the Israelis for this.

Some of Jihad's cell members were caught by the Israelis, and by late 1968, the interrogators knew that he was in a small village house in the West Bank. A special Israeli force surrounded the house. He

threw the first grenade and killed three soldiers, and seriously wounded two. He did not have time to pull the pin of the other because he was injured in the head when he got under a shower of attackers' bullets.

Jihad was then taken to the town of Sarafand to be questioned by the Israeli intelligence. For 15 days, they tortured him in order to break him down and get information about his fellow fighters and family. Refusing to speak of anyone, he only confessed that he was a resistance fighter.

Um Jihad says, "He later would not tell me how the Zionists had tortured him so as not to upset me."

Jihad was taken to jail in Hebron, and was sentenced to four life terms plus 150 years of imprisonment, leaving him no open passage. The judge asked him to request for an appeal but he refused. His friends asked for appeals, but they were all rejected. Jihad had said, "I'm a sheep in the slaughterhouse, how can I ask for an appeal?"

For the last 17 years, Jihad has been moved to 5 different prisons. He spent 5 years at Nafsa Jail; it is known for its bad treatment. About 5 years ago, the 85 Palestinian prisoners of war at Nafsa went on a 40-day hunger strike to improve the conditions there. Um Jihad says, "They were treated like animals, not war prisoners. Other than the bad food and terrible sleeping quarters, the guards constantly beat the prisoners, although it is against their

law to torture after the prisoner is sentenced." All their mothers also had a hunger strike at the Red Cross in Jerusalem in support of their imprisoned sons. After there was world-wide reaction to the hunger strike, the Israelis met part of the demands.

Jihad is now in a Nabulus Prison, and recently (September 1984) the prisoners there, along with their mothers, went on another hunger strike that lasted two weeks. Um Jihad speaks of the unfairness of this prison: "There were 18 men in one cell, there was no water for 8 hours during the day, the food was always old and rotting, no sunlight coming in, and the prisoners would be beat up by the guards if they said as much as 'hello' to each other."

The mother sees her son twice a month for half an hour each time. And during her visit, there is one guard behind Jihad, and one guard behind his mother, giving them very little privacy of speech.

Um Jihad supports her son fully in his beliefs, ideas, and actions, despite his constant anger. She believes he has the right to fight the Israelis to liberate both his country and person.

How does Jihad accept life in Israeli prisons and his history-long sentence?

"So long as he has faith in God and hope for freedom, it keeps him going," says the Palestinian woman. "And when he is free again, he will continue his Jihad struggle for Palestine — for his people's and country's freedom."

Ali El Khalili — editor-poet in revolt

By Andrew Graham-Yooll

Ali El-Khalili, Palestinian poet, born in Nabulus in 1943, holds a B.A. from the University of Beirut and is the author of 18 published books, including poems, novels, collections of folk tales and a children's storybook. He is an editor on the Jerusalem daily Al Fajr and edits Al Fajr Aladabi (Dawn of Literature), a monthly literary magazine "which supports the progressive Arab Palestinian literary movement by publishing its works" and those of the world's progressive writers. In Jerusalem he spoke to the London-based South magazine about Palestine, Israel and his dreams.

"THE ARAB poet in occupied territory finds it difficult to be a writer — but at the same time there is great joy in fighting with words in such a civilised way. I feel I am faithful to my cause when I write here (in Jerusalem)."

"Occupation is against simple rights, such as holding your own opinion, or walking in the street. You can't look into the eyes of the soldier. A soldier and you are lord and slave: this is occupation. I find this is my time to write, and to reflect the feelings of the people and live the history of my own people."

Did he think there is any solution to the problem?

"I have two solutions. A dream solution and realistic solution. My dream, my Utopia, is a democratic state for Jews, Christians and Muslims — for all the people who are living in this area — because I know the area is very important for the three religions. But this is dream, as I said. So you want a solution according to the modern life: a state according to the resolutions of 1947."

"I think that the solution is to create two spaces for two peoples — an Israeli space and a Palestinian space. The Israeli and Palestinian leaders should sit down and talk. But the most important problem until now is that the Israeli leaders refuse to recognise the Palestinian people. They have said up to now there is no Palestinian people. There are only Arabs of the Holy Land. But we have our own identity and we have our land in Palestine and the Gaza Strip. So we want our own state, our own flag, our own national songs, our own passports like other people — like Israelis, in fact."

"We have up to one million Palestinians in Lebanon. In Syria we have Palestinians, in Kuwait, in Jordan. We will never be as strong as Israel, but we want to be in our own country."

"And yet the time is not right to start negotiating. My example of this comes from a friend, a woman, who came to Israel as a visitor — and found there is another people in Israel. She wrote a book about children under war and occupation after talking to 150 Israeli and 150 Palestinian children. The Israeli children she saw hate Arabs. And our children want to sacrifice themselves for their own land."

"We are not against Jews: Nobody wants to destroy Israel. But everybody wants to destroy the occupation — I think this occupation is the sword which will kill Israel one day, if they do not stop it. I think that every writer everywhere should understand the Palestinian people. Writers are usually very brave. They know of the need to support the oppressed."

"I think we should sacrifice more until we win our rights — and we should continue to teach our children that this land is occupied. But the problem was that 80 per cent of Israeli society wanted war."

"That book was written in 1981. In 1982 Israel occupied the South of Lebanon and entered Beirut. After that war, I think Israeli society has begun to change. They lost hundreds of young men in that war. Peace may be starting from the Israeli side that is against

war."

"When I go back to Nazareth, I will have to face the Israeli policemen, after I have tried to make contact with Israeli writers. The military will say that democracy is for Tel Aviv. But in Nabulus on the Arab side, you have no kind of democracy."

How does he and his fellow Arab writers manage to reflect this situation through their writing?

"I have published reports of our meetings in Arabic. I want my readers to know that there are writers in Israel who want a democratic life not only for the Jewish people but also for me and for everybody. So from time to time I publish some of the Israeli writers' short stories in Arabic and also I reproduced the work of some of their painters. And I have published some poems by Israeli poets. They occasionally publish some of our works. But this is a very small effort."

"In Tel Aviv we held a meeting between writers from the West Bank — from the occupied territories — and writers from Israel. I spoke in Arabic and some of our friends spoke in Hebrew — sometimes we talked in English — I talked about occupation, about harassments, about settlements, about soldiers, about the killing of our children."

"They talked also about Israeli society and democratic Israeli life and about understanding the attitude towards occupation. One of their writers said, 'Look, life is very difficult there; but at least you have some kind of democracy — you can read, you can write.' I refused this theory because really we cannot write what we want."

"We have no freedom of speech at all, believe me. There is very strong censorship, for the Arabs and even for the Israelis sometimes."

"On the West Bank it is hell for me. I can't speak, and even if the censor in Israel has given me a permit, and I had already published I could be banned still in

Nabulus. The military governor will order me to come to his office and will say, 'Look, that censor is a stupid man. He gave you the permit to publish this article but you will have to stay in prison because you published it.'"

"There is one rule for Jerusalem and one for Nabulus, for the occupied territories. I need to have the censor's permission first. Then I need a licence for distribution — to distribute legally in Nabulus and the Gaza Strip — but still any of these military governors can stop circulation in his own area. There are other special problems with the military occupation authority. All our literary work is restricted to the Arab side of Jerusalem. If I want to publish in Nabulus, or Ramallah, or the Gaza Strip — I can't. We use Jerusalem as an umbrella."

"We also use the Arab Israeli publishers to publish some of our works. We have half a million Arabs inside Israel, and some of them are publishers. So we publish some of our books under the Israeli laws, inside Israel, where censorship is less than in the occupied territory. But even in Israel there are problems for the publishers. In Akko there is an Arabic publisher who has been arrested many times because he published books which they found to be illegal and his books were confiscated. So sometimes we go to Israeli-Jewish publishers to publish our books. We want to reach the readers because this literature is not violent. We want to live in peace and to explain ourselves."

"Some of the writers who have published their writings here have had problems. So they use pseudonyms and are not always easy to find, even if you want to praise them."

"I have been arrested, because of my writing, just to be asked who pays you and why do you publish — and who are your writers, and how do you get to them. So I spent two months in prison for that in 1978." — South Syndication Service.

Iraq wins hard-fought victory

By Munem Fakhoury
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Iraq beat Jordan 3-2 Friday in a World Cup Asian Group One Sub-group "B" qualifying game held in Amman International Stadium.

Iraq midfielder Ali Hussein passed the ball to Hussein Said who returned it to Wameed Muneer to score the first goal for Iraq in the 38th minute to end the first half 1-0 in favour of Iraq.

In the second half the Jordanian team moved up towards the edge of the Iraqi penalty area and after 8 minutes Jamal Abu Abed sent the ball across which received by Rateb Al Daoud to net the equaliser by a beautiful double-kick on the left side of the Iraqi goalkeeper Fatah Nusseif.

Hussein Said exchanged the ball with Ahmad Radi in the 25th minute to reach the penalty area of Jordan where received by goalkeeper Basem Ta'em who played a leading role to save many goals. Then the ball fell from the hands of Ta'em to be cleared by def-

ender Issam Taleb but it hit the body of the goalkeeper again to continue its way inside the goalpost netting the second goal for Iraq, but Jordanian players continued pressure at Iraqi goal. A magnificent shot by Jamal Abu Abed from 35 metres in the 38th minute giving Jordan a badly needed equaliser.

The time was running, when the Kuwaiti referee was about to blow the final whistle after extra time of two minutes a scrambled attack in the penalty area of Jordan gave the Iraqi a triumph to head the group by 6 points.

More than 35,000 spectators attended the game and were treated as a brilliant display by Jordanian team despite the unexpected last minute winning goal by Iraq.



Jamal Ibrahim of Jordan (right, dark shirt) trying to foil an Iraqi attempt by Ahmad Radi to net a goal Friday in World Cup Asia Group One, sub-group B qualifier soccer match at the Amman International Stadium (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

India beats Australia in one-day cricket final

SHARJAH (R) — India further enhanced their claims to be regarded as undisputed kings of the one-day game by beating Australia by three wickets in the final of the four-nation Sharjah Cricket Tournament Friday.

India, World Cup champions and victors in the recent World Championship of Cricket in Australia, paced their innings well after bowling out Australia for a miserly 139 in 42.3 overs.

Australian openers Graeme Wood and Kepler Wessels gave little hint of the problems to come when they put on 60 from 15 of the allotted 50 overs.

But three wickets went down in quick succession when Wood, whose erratic running between the wickets has earned him the title of the "kamikaze kid," was stranded out of his crease when he had made 27.

Allan Border and former skipper Kim Hughes retrieved the situation with a hard hitting stand of 36 but their dismissal by man of the match Mohinder Amarnath in the space of three balls in the 30th over sparked a collapse which saw the last five wickets tumble for eight runs — two of them run outs.

The Indians suffered an early setback in their reply, Krishna Srikkanth falling leg before to the fifth ball of the innings bowled by

Craig McDermott. But they had to wait until the 12th over for their next success, Ravi Shastri edging a catch to wicketkeeper Steve Rixon off Steve O'Donnell.

Australian hopes rose when seven balls later and the score on 41, McDermott picked up the prize scalp of Mohammad Azharuddin for 22.

A 57-run stand between Dilip Vengsarkar and former skipper Sunil Gavaskar looked like taking the match out of Australia's reach but the innings began to stutter when Border's direct throw from mid-wicket ran out Gavaskar for 20.

Vengsarkar followed at 103 for a top score of 35 and when off-spinner Greg Matthews bowled Kapil Dev and Roger Binny in the space of five balls alarm bells must have been ringing in the Indian dressing room. They had slumped to 120 for seven, still 20 short of victory.

But with 17 overs in hand, Amarnath and Madan Lal took no risks and victory came off the second ball of the 40th over when Madan Lal hit the ball to the mid-wicket boundary.

India collected \$45,000 for their latest one-day success. The Australians pocketed \$30,000.



PRESENTATION CEREMONY: Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Thursday awards a medal to a Mu'ta University student, winner of the university's cross-country race.

Holmes, Moran return to action today

LONDON (R) — Southampton's Nick Holmes and Steve Moran return to First Division action Saturday and could have an immediate impact on the destiny of the English Soccer Championship.

Southampton saw their own title hopes take a dive last week when they crashed 5-1 at second-placed Tottenham, a result which kept the Londoners level on 60 points with leaders Everton.

But Southampton have the chance to make another dramatic contribution to an enthralling championship battle Saturday when they meet Everton at home.

With Holmes and Moran back, Southampton is unlikely to capitulate so easily presenting Tottenham, who play host to Aston Villa, with the opportunity to take a clear lead at the top of the table.

Holmes has missed the last nine games with a groin strain but came through two reserve matches this week and is in line for a recall to the defence, probably in place of Mark Whitlock.

Moran has been absent for four

of the last five games with a heel injury, but he too played for the reserves this week. David Puckett is likely to make way for him.

New signing Jimmy Case, the former Liverpool and Brighton midfielder, misses the match through suspension. Welsh international Alan Curtis will deputise.

Tottenham will have their strength in depth tested by Villa with six first team members unavailable.

England internationals Gary Mabbitt and Gary Stevens are long-term absentees while winger John Chidozie is still troubled by a back injury and defender Chris Hughton was hurt in Ireland's 2-1 defeat by England on Tuesday.

Mike Hazard has not trained all week because of a thigh strain and is an almost certain non-starter and Graham Roberts is suspended. Manager Peter Shreeve has yet to decide how to fill most of the vacancies although Mark Bowen looks set to deputise for Hughton.

Dubai driver cruises to win Kuwait rally

KUWAIT (R) — Dubai's Mohammad Bin Sulayem cruised to an easy win Friday in a bruising Kuwait International Rally in which only five of 24 starters finished.

Driving a Toyota Celica, he raced away with the title 51 minutes ahead of Kuwait go-kart champion Othman Lange of West Germany in second place, driving a Nissan 240RS.

The hot favourites, including Middle East champion Saeed Al Hajri of Qatar, dropped out before the overnight stop.

Only 11 starters reached the overnight mark in an unusually low survival rate so early in the event, even by arduous Gulf conditions. "Cars just kept blowing their engines," said a spokesman for the organisers, Steve Fellows.

But seasoned rallyists said the small number of finishers was less surprising. "The drivers just don't have experience. We don't have enough rallies in the Middle East," said one.

Al Hajri retired when his Porsche 911SC RS developed early engine trouble, as did defending title-holder Ahmed Al Saffairi of Kuwait whose Toyota Celica veered of course into desert sand with suspension problems.

Because so many drivers had trouble in the early stages, stretching out the field over 4 1/2 hours running time, the organisers decided to scratch over a fifth of the originally planned distance, reducing the race to 1,200 km (750 miles).

Kuwaiti Ahmed Al Nasser and Jamal Marafe filled third and fourth spots, driving a Mitsubishi Sapporo and Toyota respectively. Mandu Khayat of Saudi Arabia, believed to be the kingdom's only international rally driver, came in fifth in a Toyota Corolla.

Connors, Lendl reach \$325,000 tennis quarterfinals

FORT MEYERS, Florida (R) — Jimmy Connors and Ivan Lendl, the top two seeds, scored easy victories Friday to advance to the quarterfinals of the \$325,000 Florida Classic.

Connors, the top seed, defeated fellow American Dan Cassidy 6-2, 6-2. Lendl, of Czechoslovakia, beat American Greg Holmes 6-4, 6-2.

Third-seeded Andres Gomez of Ecuador and unseeded American Brad Gilbert also won second-round matches Friday.

Connors' only dangerous moment came when he fell behind love-40 on his serve in the third game of the first set, but he fought back to win the game.

Connors said: "My taking that game lifted me and then he started missing a few first serves."

The unseeded Cassidy said: "It's the first time I ever played a

top-ranked player. Serve and volley is my game but Connors took me out of it."

Cassidy, 23, added: "I just turned professional in August, 1984, but I certainly learned a lot tonight."

Lendl won without showing the same power he exhibited in defeating Briton John Lloyd on Wednesday.

In the first set, Lendl contented himself with a baseline game, waiting for unforced errors by Holmes.

He was more aggressive in the second set, breaking the unseeded Holmes in the fifth and seventh games.

Holmes said: "I feel I lost the match when I didn't take Lendl at 3-2 in the second set. I need to hit deeper, and I never played him before."

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New Delhi shuts down Bombay stock market

BOMBAY (R) — The finance ministry Friday halted trading for 24 hours at India's biggest stock exchange to head off a payments crisis set off by a massive speculative buying spree, an exchange official said.

Bombay stock exchange executive director Mr. M.R. Mayya told Reuters the government wanted to avert a possible crisis in which speculators might fail to pay for their shares.

"Our prime concern is to protect genuine investors," he said. Mr. Mayya said the exchange would work for one hour a day from Monday against the usual three hours. He said curbs on trading would remain until the pre-

sent situation returned to normal. The curbs included a ban imposed early this week prohibiting trading on seven most fancied forward shares.

Mr. Mayya said attractive investment concessions in India's budget this month set off a buying spree and resulted in sharp rises in prices at the exchange.

The exchange accounts for more than 60 per cent of an annual total turnover of around 20 billion rupees (\$1.66 billion) at India's 13 other stock exchanges.

The Economic Times index has risen 29 points to 355.2 since the budget was announced on March 16.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One sterling	1.2430/60	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3695/3705	Canadian dollars
	3.0800/0900	West German marks
	3.4700/4800	Dutch guilders
	2.6150/6300	Swiss francs
	61.80/95	Belgian francs
	9.3800/4200	French francs
	2016.08/0	Italian lire
	251.00/25	Japanese yen
	8.9050/9350	Swedish crowns
	8.9000/9300	Norwegian crowns
	10.9950/11.0250	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	330.00/331.00	U.S. dollars

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SAT. MARCH 30, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The daytime is certainly not the time to press home, family or property interests. Avoid any sort of friction with anyone of whom you are fond and put off social activities.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Avoid outdoor duties as much as you can during day hours, and then tonight you can be happy with your mate.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Keep any promises made, and if an outside matter suddenly arises, take it in your stride. Be with a serious partner in the p.m.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Get important duties handled and don't let personal affairs get in the way. Later schedule next week's activities.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Steer clear of an argument between an associate and one in public office, then you can have a delightful time.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) There is work to be done so do it conscientiously and you can have much happiness at home in the evening.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Avoid that friend who wants you to go out for fun since you have much to do, but tonight you can enjoy the company of friends.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Be more tactful with a crotchety partner and you get along better with this person. Worrying about an outside affair is not wise.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You may want to wait before doing some work until you are more in the mood and can do it right.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You want to have a good time even though you have important things to do, but do the latter first.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A good friend will assist you with some problematical affairs, but avoid a family tie who does not understand.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get those outside duties handled and put aside small jobs around the house that could get you frustrated.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Study into new interests that are fascinating to you and don't let some scheme dazzle you. Show that you are sensible.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will get at the very core of any project that interests him or her, so slant the education along investigative lines and much success is possible during the lifetime. Early give good religious and ethical training, since it will be of use in later life.

THE Daily Crossword by Victor Jambor, Jr.

ACROSS

1. Fla. city
2. Fr. explorer
3. Occupation
4. Ventilated
5. Thoughts
6. Swiss canton
7. Easy target
8. Wildly amusing
9. Zoological pointed part
10. Butter or polisher
11. Fierce monkeys
12. Unguarded
13. Strup
14. Exercise
15. Fry quickly
16. Deep cut
17. Taj Mahal site
18. Coastal bird
19. Sew loosely
20. Bag
21. Lawyer: abbr.
22. Barton or Bow
23. Metrical foot
24. Food dealer
25. Recreation center
26. Struck lightly
27. Writer of boys' stories
28. Sports palace
29. Apron part
30. Jealousy, old style
31. DDE
32. Culvert opening
33. Piles
34. After expenses
35. Necessities
36. Couples

DOWN

1. Alliance
2. 102
3. Columnist
4. Buchwald
5. Paroles
6. Containing animal fat
7. Owens
8. Egyptian lizard
9. Romanian coin
10. Racin
11. Glacial ridges
12. Certain toy
13. Papal veil
14. Waited
15. Muse number
16. Malay canoe
17. Diamond square
18. Cocktail
19. Soapwort
20. U-t-temperad
21. Tennis name
22. Endure
23. Panama Canal locks
24. Oscar for
25. 34
26. Ruth
27. Jackson or Smith
28. Covered
29. Within a given area
30. 44
31. Arthurian magician
32. Valley
33. Hut
34. Matching
35. Fuses material
36. 50
37. Paroled
38. Wind dir.
39. Matt drink
40. A Gabor
41. Actor Beatty
42. Donkey

U.S. Senate urges action against Japan

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Senate Thursday called on President Reagan to retaliate against Japan's trade barriers unless it opens its markets to American-made goods in the next 90 days.

The Senate unanimously approved a non-binding resolution urging action against Japanese imports which congressional leaders said was aimed at shocking Japan and the White House into speeding up bilateral trade talks.

The unusually speedy move came as trade relations between the two countries chilled, with top U.S. officials warning that there would be no agreement in current telecommunications trade talks unless Japan softened its stance.

The resolution was spurred by Japan's decision Wednesday to increase its car exports to the United States by almost 25 per cent to 2.3 million in the year starting April 1.

It also reflected growing concern in Congress that talks now underway with Japan will not produce easier access to Japanese markets for U.S. telecommunications equipment, beef, citrus, wood products, drugs and other goods.

"We'll be back here very soon" with a stiff retaliatory trade bill

one," he added.

Although he declined to detail where the two sides differ, Mr. Baldrige said only a change in Japan's position can bring an agreement before April 1.

The telecommunications talks face an April 1 deadline since that is when Japan's government-owned telephone monopoly is to be turned over to private ownership.

He said the 1985 plan called for eight per cent growth in industry and six per cent in agriculture, a drastic cut from leaps in output of more than 14 per cent last year.

The minister's speeches back up Premier Zhao Ziyang's report to the NPC Wednesday which revealed a serious problem of rising money supply, inflation and uncontrolled wage increases.

After a 17 per cent jump in revenue and expenditure last year, Mr. Wang's 1985 preliminary budget forecast showed a more modest rise.

"We have to help maintain economic stability by controlling expenditure and reducing the deficit," he said.

Spending in all areas but education, science, health and public sector wages would be cut back in real terms, he said.

Mr. Wang said better administration of taxes, which have become the government's main source of revenue in line with its new fiscal policies, would be decisive in reaching 1985 targets.

Although China is retightening some central controls to cool the overheated economy, Premier Zhao said the government was resolved to push the reforms ahead.

"In view of the strain on the financial and material resources, it is inadvisable to set an unduly high

growth rate in the 1985 plan," Mr. Song said.

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growth rate in the 1985 plan," Mr. Song said.

EC admits Spain, Portugal

BRUSSELS (R) — Spain and Portugal Friday reached agreement with the European Community (EC) on final terms for their entry into the group next year, officials said.

The agreement with Portugal came eight years to the day after Lisbon formally applied to group and just under eight years since Spain asked to enter.

Both countries are now expected to take up membership on Jan. 1, 1986, diplomats said.

The agreement, reached after more than 15 hours of continuous negotiations since Thursday, will expand the Community from 10 to 12 members and increase its existing 270 million population by almost a fifth.

The diplomats said there were a few minor details yet to be settled but these would be finalized while legal experts drafted the accession treaties.

Officials said the treaties needed to be signed by the end of next month to allow enough time for ratification by the 12 parliaments before Jan. 1.

The agreement came only hours before the opening here of a Community summit conference which had been under threat of postponement if the group's foreign ministers had been unable to clinch a deal with the two Iberian states.

Diplomats said one final obstacle still had to be overcome before enlargement could go ahead.

This was Greece's threat to veto the agreement unless the Community agreed on a massive scheme to aid its Mediterranean regions.

Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi, who will preside at the two-day summit, told his Community partners earlier this week the Greek problem would be at the top of the summit agenda.

The years of negotiations with the Iberian countries were tough and gruelling, often plunging the Community into serious internal squabbles and deep dis-

agreements with Madrid and Lisbon, especially the former.

They exposed conflicts between the Community's richer northern states and its poorer south and accentuated fears in the older industrialized members of competition from newly developed economies like Spain's.

France was particularly lukewarm over Spanish membership from the earliest days of Madrid's application because it feared Community markets would be flooded with cheap Spanish wine, fruit and vegetables competing with its products.

It blocked agreement when a deal appeared within reach last week but eased its conditions Thursday, fulfilling President Francois Mitterrand's pledge to back entry for Spain under fellow Socialist Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez.

Officials celebrate with champagne

The final success of the negotiations early Friday after the years of negotiation caused jubilation among Community members and officials said champagne corks were popping in the ministerial conference room.

The deal worked out Friday means the total integration of the two Iberian countries' economies within the bloc by 1995.

Meanwhile, in Madrid, Spaniards greeted news of their country's agreement to join EC with general elation Friday but some paused to count the cost.

All major political parties which have consistently supported Community membership reacted with glowing statements.

Mr. Pedro Bofill, spokesman of the ruling Socialist Party, said the deal would lead to a "better Spain."



Felipe Gonzalez



Mario Soares

The main conservative opposition Popular Alliance Party said it wanted to mark the historic occasion by expressing its satisfaction that Spain was now in Europe.

The Communist Party described the agreement as "transcendental for both Spain and Europe."

The Madrid Chamber of Commerce and other leading business organizations also welcomed the deal but some said that Spain would have to pay a high price.

Farmers, who staged two separate demonstrations Thursday against the agreement, said Spanish agriculture would suffer a recession and industrialists warned that Spain would have to brace for the shock of competition after years of high, protective tariffs.

Cattle and dairy farmers are concerned about competition from cheaper northern European produce and Spain's competitive fruit and vegetable growers are being barred from totally free access to the Community for a lengthy transition period.

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Knesset approves \$23b budget

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Israeli parliament approved a \$23 billion budget in the early morning hours Friday, slicing \$1.8 billion from last year's spending.

The spending cuts were to be made across the board, affecting all ministries and government subsidies to fuel and basic food items.

The United States has been pressing the Israeli government to take strong steps to reduce its inflation as a precondition for granting emergency economic aid.

Israel is seeking \$800 million in addition to the \$2.6 billion already granted by the United States.

But Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Finance Minister Yitzhak Mordechai have resisted the American calls for even deeper budget cuts, on the grounds that this would lead to a major increase in unemployment and political unrest.

Last year's approved budget was also \$23 billion, but the government overspent and retroactively approved a supplementary budget of \$1.8 billion.

The overspending helped push Israel's 1984 inflation to 445 per cent.

Meanwhile, the price of gasoline in Israel rose overnight by 13 per cent, bringing the price for a gallon of gasoline from \$2 and 63 cents, to \$2 and 97 cents. The increase was in line with the policy of adjusting the prices of fuel costs, the energy ministry announced.

Israel's budget year starts April 1. The parliamentary approval, with just two days to spare, followed several days of wrangling over allocations to religious institutions.

The final vote was 60-4. All legislators present in 120-member chamber voted in favour of the budget except the three-member Front for Peace and Equality, a Communist Party, and the secretary-general of the Histadrut trade union federation, Mr. Yisrael Kessar.

Before the debate, Mr. Peres tried for 10 hours to reach a con-

plementary budget of \$1.8 billion. The overspending helped push Israel's 1984 inflation to 445 per cent.

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sensus among three religious parties over the allocation of \$4.5 million to educational institutions they control.

The four-man National Religious Party threatened to vote against the budget and withdraw from the bipartisan government if it was unhappy with the decision over allocation of the funds.

Under a compromise agreement, the budget did not specify which institutions would be getting the \$4.5 billion

NATO delighted with deal on Spanish entry into EC

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO officials expressed delight Friday's agreement on Spanish entry into the European Community and said it was bound to improve prospects of Spaniards voting to stay in the alliance.

Socialist Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez has promised a referendum next year on continued membership of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), which Spain joined in 1982 as the first new member since West Germany in 1955.

Spanish ministers have made clear it would be hard to recommend participating in Western defence if the country was excluded from the economic benefits of the Common Market.

"Obviously we're delighted. This removes one major obstacle along the path to Spanish integration in the alliance," a senior NATO diplomat said.

Politically it's extremely important," a high alliance official said. "It would be very unfortunate if a country joined the club, took a look round and then decided to leave."

Most officials said Spanish membership had more political than strictly military significance to NATO. Mr. Gonzalez froze the integration of Spain into the allied military command structure when he was elected in October 1982 and full integration remains a distant prospect.

At present, Spain does not commit any of its 330,000-strong armed forces to NATO command or take part in the alliance's planning process but its representatives sit as observers on the military committees.

In the alliance's political councils, officials said, Spain was a strong advocate of better East-West relations and offered expertise on Central and Latin American affairs, often critical of U.S. policy in the area.

NATO defence analysts said

the most important military contribution Madrid could make was to the naval defence of the western Mediterranean and as a deep staging area for the reinforcement of Europe from North America in a crisis.

They noted that Spain had a widely respected navy, including an aircraft carrier and 11 destroyers, and was modernising its air force with the highly effective U.S. F-18 fighter.

The experts noted Madrid had bilateral agreements giving the United States important military facilities and listening posts in Spain which would presumably be maintained even if the referendum vote went against NATO membership.

Meanwhile European Commission President Jacques Delors has proposed setting aside European Community money for a possible share in President Reagan's controversial "Star Wars" space weapons research programme.

Two days after U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger in-

ited Washington's NATO allies to join the scheme, Mr. Delors told a news conference Thursday he was proposing to double the Community's research budget to allow for such participation.

Mr. Delors said he would submit the proposal for Community involvement in the U.S. Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) to a summit meeting of Community leaders in Brussels.

Mr. Weinberger made clear Wednesday after a NATO meeting in Luxembourg that Washington was unenthusiastic about the idea of a joint European response and wanted to involve individual allies bilaterally.

However, Mr. Delors said Thursday: "If Europe is going to participate in a dispersed fashion, it would not be so positive as if they worked together."

Mr. Delors said he had altered funding proposals at the last moment to double the allocation for research from three to six per cent of the community's \$20-billion budget.

Sartzetakis elected Greek president

ATHENS (R) — Greece's parliament Friday elected Christos Sartzetakis, the Socialist government's nominee, as next president by 180 votes out of 300 — exactly the majority he needed.

The result immediately prompted fears of a constitutional crisis because the votes for Mr. Sartzetakis included that of acting President Ioannis Alevras, speaker of parliament, who the conservative opposition says has no right to vote.

The opposition had said it would not recognise Mr. Sartzetakis as president if Mr. Alevras' vote proved decisive.

A total of 186 out of the 300 deputies in the house voted Friday. There were five invalid votes and one blank ballot.

The result followed a chaotic debate in which Mr. Alevras, with Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu's approval, defied a rule in the 1975 constitution that calls for a secret presidential ballot and distributed blue voting slips for Mr. Sartzetakis and white ones for

blank votes. Mr. Papandreu attacked the 1975 document, drafted under conservative Prime Minister Constantine Karamanlis, as a "one-party" constitution and said it was inappropriate that such an important ballot be held in secret.

Friday's ballot was the third and final parliamentary voting session following the sudden resignation on March 10 of pro-Western Constantine Karamanlis.

Mr. Karamanlis, who was widely perceived as a brake on Mr. Papandreu's long-term plans to loosen Greek ties with the West, resigned after Mr. Papandreu's Socialists said they would not back him for another term and proposed changes in the constitution that would limit the president's powers.

Mr. Sartzetakis won 178 and 181 votes respectively in two previous ballots, in which 200 votes, or a two-thirds majority, would have given confirmation under parliamentary rules.

If the deputies had failed to

elect a president in the third ballot, parliament would have been dissolved immediately and new elections would have been proclaimed within a month.

A new parliament could elect a president with a simple majority.

Spying on Greece

Meanwhile according to the National Times newspaper in Sydney the U.S. government has repositioned a satellite controlled from a base in central Australia ready to spy on Greece.

The weekly, noted for its investigative reporting, said the satellite, controlled by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) at the Pine Gap Base, had its antennae adjusted to intercept Greek communications.

Australia's Labour government had not opposed the change but operational approval had still to be given, according to the paper.

In line with government policy on joint U.S.-Australian bases, Defence Minister Kim Beazley refused to comment on the report.

Sri Lankan parties protest Thatcher's visit

COLOMBO (R) — Two leftist political parties and a section of the trade union movement protested Friday against British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's planned visit to Sri Lanka next month.

The Ceylon Federation of Labour (CFL) said it opposed the visit because of Mrs. Thatcher's "vicious" handling of the coal miners' strike in Britain and her general policy towards British trade unions.

The pro-Moscow Communist Party and the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna (MEP) said they objected to Mrs. Thatcher addressing parliament on April 13 because it was New Year's Day for Sri Lanka's Sinhalese and Tamil people.

The CFL said it would hold a public meeting and mobilise support in work places and agricultural areas to protest against the visit.

Trade union sources said more than 12 trade unions representing thousands of workers ranging from clerks to teachers and industrial workers were affiliated to the CFL.

The only member of parliament of the Communist Party, Sarah Muttetwegama, said in a letter to the speaker of parliament that he would boycott Mrs. Thatcher's address to the legislature.

The MEP leader, Dinesh Gunewardene, said he would also boycott Mrs. Thatcher's address to parliament because it would take place on New Year's Day.

In London, representatives of Sri Lanka's Tamil minority which is demanding a separate state, have held demonstrations urging Mrs. Thatcher to call off the visit.

Mrs. Thatcher is scheduled to visit Sri Lanka from April 11 to 13 during a six-nation tour of Asia.

Brazil reassured of Neves' recovery

SAO PAULO (R) — President-elect Tancredino Neves' first walk after surgery has reassured Brazil's government and parliament that the 75-year-old politician will eventually take over the reins of power.

Presidential Spokesman Antonio Brito said Mr. Neves, who walked around his hospital bed with his wife Risolotta Thursday, was much better but added that his condition remained delicate.

Mr. Neves, prevented by emergency abdominal surgery from taking power as scheduled on March 15, underwent a third operation last Tuesday for internal bleeding.

Business returned to normal Thursday in the capital, Brasilia as Vice-President Jose Sarney sent to parliament a bill to amend legislation introduced during the past 21 years of military government.

The bill would allow special security areas designated by the military — frontier towns and areas close to potential economic targets — to elect their own legislators instead of having them appointed by the central government.

Journalists covering parliament said there was much more activity than during the two decades of military-led government following the 1964 coup.

In the past two days, an inter-party committee has agreed to allow mayors to be elected instead of being appointed by state governors.

The House of Deputies Foreign Affairs Committee has urged the government to renew diplomatic links with Cuba broken off by the military, and the Senate has approved the creation of a 24th state.

Politicians have said Mr. Neves, chosen by a two-to-one margin in an electoral college vote last January, could take the oath of office in 70 to 90 days.

The presidential spokesman said an infection at the base of Mr. Neves' right lung had diminished his surgical wound was stable. "Even pessimists are now optimistic," Sao Paulo state Governor Franco Montoro told reporters after talking to Mr. Neves' family and doctors Thursday.

Hungarian Communists reshuffle leadership

BUDAPEST (R) — Hungary's Communist Party has ended its congress with a leadership reshuffle, bringing in younger men and giving a deputy to veteran leader Janos Kadar.

Karoly Nemeth, 62, the politburo member in charge of party organisation, was appointed to the new post of deputy general secretary in order to ease Mr. Kadar's workload.

The post does not exist in other Soviet Bloc states.

Mr. Kadar, 72, who has led party since 1956 and is popular in

party and country, was reelected general secretary.

There are no signs that he plans to step down, and party sources said Mr. Nemeth, who had already deputised for him informally, had not been designated his successor.

Karoly Grosz, new head of the powerful Budapest party machine, a job once held by Mr. Nemeth, was appointed to the party politburo.

Mr. Grosz, 55, an outspoken man with a reputation for getting things done, is considered a possible successor to Mr. Kadar.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A653 ♠A1085 ♣KJ94
Partner opens the bidding with three spades. What action do you take?

A.—At this vulnerability, you are on the borderline for a raise to four spades. However, the fact that you are void in partner's suit means that he might have one trump loser more than he anticipates, so that convinces us to pass. If you bid three no trump, you should brush up on your understanding of the trick-taking potential of your hand.

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠6 ♠K8 ♣AKJ93 ♣AQ1054
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?
A.—Partner's one heart response has improved your hand a little, because the king of hearts now becomes a working card. Therefore, we would jump shift to three clubs. Had partner responded one spade rather than one heart, we would have deemed a simple rebid of two clubs sufficient.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KJ82 ♠AQJ ♣Q96 ♣93
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?
A.—You have a minimum opening bid and partner did not have the values to force to four spades. Nevertheless, we would not pass. Our diamond values should be upgraded, and we would accept the invitation on the strength of the double fit. Had partner's response been two clubs instead of two

diamonds, we would have been content with a partial score.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠J10 ♠AQJ9 ♣Q6 ♣J873
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?
A.—In terms of high cards, your hand does not merit another move. However, you have two honors in partner's suit, a five-card suit of your own and excellent intermediates, so we think you are worth one try. The obvious bid is two no trump, despite the sketchy diamond stopper.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠KQ10 ♠84 ♣KQ95 ♣A982
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass ?

What action do you take?
A.—Partner's jump to two no trump after passing shows a balanced hand of 11-12 points. You have 14 good points — the tens and nines give your hand body. Proceed forthwith to three no trump.

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠1065 ♠AKQ2 ♣J84 ♣QJ5
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?

What action do you take?
A.—Since your hand is flat, and most of its strength is concentrated in one suit, it is not quite as strong as its point count suggests. Certainly, it is worth another bid, but we would not contemplate any drastic action. For the moment, a raise to three clubs is adequate.



SOLD TO AUSTRIA: The Swedish jet-fighters SAAB J-35 Draken, which according to Austrian Defence Council will become Austria's new interceptor. The Austrian Armed Forces plan to buy 24 units (AP wirephoto)

Pretoria bans anti-apartheid meetings

CAPE TOWN (R) — South Africa imposed a three-month ban Friday on meetings of the anti-apartheid United Democratic Front (UDF) and 28 other organisations in riot-torn areas, mainly in the eastern part of Cape province.

The ban, ordered by Law and Order Minister Louis Le Grange, was effective immediately in 18 magisterial districts. It also forbade indoor gatherings in the areas by any group aimed at organising work boycotts.

South Africa said Thursday that supporters of the outlawed African National Congress (ANC), which the government says is behind rioting that has claimed more than 300 lives in the past year, were members of the UDF.

Political analysts had been forecasting a clampdown on dissent following remarks this week by President P.W. Botha that he had ordered steps to restore law and order.

In continuing unrest during the night, South African riot police fired birdshot, rubber bullets and

tear gas to contain rioting in some parts of the eastern Cape region. Police said that five schools were burned down and two houses destroyed by arsonists.

In Graaff-Reinet, the house of a church caretaker who refused to allow a group of blacks to meet in the church was burned down.

Deputy Foreign Minister Louis Nel said Thursday that the banned African National Congress (ANC) was behind the past year's unrest and that it had supporters in the UDF, the main political group opposing apartheid racial segregation policies.

"There is incontrovertible evidence of an orchestrated attempt by forces from beyond our borders, joined by radical elements inside the country, to politicise certain target groups for their own purposes," Mr. Nel told a news conference.

UDF leaders facing treason charges were due to appear in a Durban court Friday. The UDF said Thursday that police had detained 12 more of its leaders in the eastern Cape, scene of the worst

recent rioting.

The UDF made Thursday a day of mourning for at least 19 blacks shot dead in Langa township outside this eastern Cape city on March 21 and thousands of black people in the area responded.

People living in South Africa's second largest township, Mdantsane, which serves as a labour pool for the east Cape town of East London, said some workers stayed at home and many more streamed from work on foot or by bus just before midday when services were held throughout the country for the Langa dead.

Spokesmen for factories in East London confirmed that they had to close early.

In another east Cape town, Grahamstown, church bells tolled in black districts and white students wore black armbands.

In Uitenhage, warrant officer Wouter Pentz told an official inquiry into the Langa shootings that he and his colleagues had fired at a crowd of 4,000 black people because "I thought we would be overrun and killed."

Lange starts 5-nation Africa visit today

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange flies to Africa Saturday on a five-nation visit aimed at repairing relations with black countries damaged by sporting ties between New Zealand and South Africa.

Mr. Lange is due to leave Wellington immediately after making a final plea to the New Zealand Rugby Union council to abandon plans for the national side, the all blacks, to tour South Africa.

But he is expected to be in the air when the union announces late Saturday whether or not it will send the all blacks to South Africa in August.

Whatever the decision, it will

affect the New Zealand leader's reception in Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana, diplomatic analysts said.

But Mr. Lange insisted to reporters Friday that his visit, the first to black Africa by a New Zealand prime minister except for the Lusaka Commonwealth meeting in 1979, was "not a damage limitation exercise."

"It's a visit to break the ice, to show for the first time that New Zealand is interested in good, constructive, positive relationships with African countries," he said.

Mr. Lange said he had a "substantial" task ahead in explaining New Zealand's position and cor-

recting misconceptions and misunderstandings.

He made clear the trip was designed to erase what he regards as major damage done to this country's image in Africa by the nine-year administration of his predecessor, Sir Robert Muldoon.

Sir Robert angered many African leaders at the Commonwealth summit in Melbourne in 1981 with his comment that Zimbabwe leader Robert Mugabe had been "in the jungle, killing people" and by his refusal to condemn in the terms they expected that year's South African rugby tour of New Zealand.

Honduran chief threatens state of siege

TEGUCIGALPA (R) — Troops ringed Honduras' Congress building Thursday night as President Roberto Suazo Cordova threatened to impose a state of siege if a row between the Congress and the Supreme Court deepened.

"If this constitutional crisis affecting the country worsens, the president informs that he could declare a state of siege," Presidency Minister Ubodoro Arriaga said in a radio announcement.

Despite the deployment of troops around the Congress building and Mr. Suazo's residence, diplomatic and military sources said the army would prefer to keep out of the crisis, which broke out two

weeks ago when Congress and the court became locked in a power struggle over electoral law.

"The troops are there just as a show of support for Suazo," one diplomat said. "They'd prefer to leave it all to the politicians."

The sources described the crisis, in which Congress sacked five supreme court justices on Wednesday, as being a result of jostling for position ahead of general elections in November.

Under a state of siege, the Congress would be suspended.

The diplomats described the crisis as the worst so far for Mr. Suazo since he took office in 1982

as the first elected president in 12 years in Honduras, the staunchest U.S. ally in Central America.

A majority of the 82-member Congress wants Supreme Court President Carlos Manuel Ariza Palomo and four other justices out on charges of unspecified unconstitutional activities.

The Supreme Court can influence the way in which candidates are chosen and determines electoral law procedure.

Opponents in Congress, some of them potential presidential candidates themselves, said they believed the five justices would use their powers in support of a Suazo bid for re-election.

Deng says reforms are second Chinese revolution

PEKING (R) — Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping has said his programme of radical economic change amounts to a second revolution in China.

Chinese papers Friday splashed his remarks across their front pages. "Reform is China's second revolution" read the headline in the Communist Party newspaper the People's Daily.

The 80-year-old Deng stressed that China would forge ahead with the reforms despite problems of corruption and overheating of the economy that have cropped up alongside the changes.

"We were aware there might be such risks when we decided on reform. Our principle is to be bold but steadfast. We watch every step, weigh our experience and are quick to change whatever seems appropriate," he was quoted by the papers as saying.

He was speaking Thursday to Susumu Nikaide, deputy head of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party in Peking's Great Hall of the People.

Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang said on Wednesday the government was tightening loose monetary and wage policies that had allowed the money supply to get out of control.

Finance Minister Wang Bing-

gan, announcing China's 1985 budget Thursday, also pointed to problems of corruption, ostentation and extravagance practised by some state officials and firms, saying they seriously undermined Communist Party policies.

Mr. Deng's reforms have abolished Maoist egalitarianism, phased out the old rural communes and aim to substitute a Soviet-style centrally-planned economy for one that is more free market oriented.

The People's Daily quoted Mr. Deng as saying that what China was doing was very brave.

"What we are doing needs courage, but unless we do it the future will be hard. Reform is China's second revolution. The point is we must do it despite the risks," he declared.

The first revolution in 1949 swept the Communist Party led by the late Chairman Mao Tse-tung to power.

"The problems that have occurred recently were nothing we did not expect," Mr. Deng stated. "Internationally they have been seen by some as grave. We feel we are on firm ground."

China Thursday announced a 3.3 per cent increase in 1985 defence

spending, maintaining expenditure on the armed forces at roughly last year's level.

The figure reflected Peking's emphasis over the past four years on giving priority to agricultural and industrial reform. Meanwhile, it has streamlined and updated its four million-strong military machine without significantly boosting real expenditure.

Finance Minister Wang Binggan, presenting his 1985 budget, said national defence spending would be 18.65 billion yuan (\$6.6 billion) this year, 3.3 per cent higher than in 1984.

This compared with an overall budget of 156.5 billion yuan (\$56 billion) up from last year's 151.5 billion yuan.

Mr. Wang said 1984 defence spending overran budget by 1.1 per cent, at 18.07 billion yuan (\$6.45 billion).

Mr. Deng has placed defence fourth on a list of national priorities, behind development of agriculture, industry, and science and technology. He has said China needs peace along all its borders for at least 20 years so that it can concentrate on economic modernisation.

Mr. Deng plans to quadruple national output and per capita income between 1980 and the

turn of the century and has told the armed forces they must play their part in the civilian modernisation drive.

Mr. Wang announced that appropriations for urban construction, maintenance and Civil Air Defence would amount to 5.45 billion yuan (\$1.9 billion), a 33.5 per cent increase over 1984.

Civil Air Defence is included in construction because in major cities most new buildings are built with reinforced basements that can act as air-raid shelters in times of war.

Mr. Wang said the big increase was mainly due to stepped up urban construction.

China is busy modernising its lumbering armed forces and is negotiating with the United States to buy military equipment, including radar, helicopters, anti-tank missiles and naval technology.

But expenditure on defence as a proportion of overall national spending has fallen from around 20 per cent to 14 per cent over the past five years.

The army plans to retire 47,000 ageing veteran officers over the next two years as part of moves to improve the educational level of commanders.

COLUMN

Dutch airport and Swiss airline judged world's best

THE HAGUE (R) — Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport has again been judged the best in the world by the International Airline Passengers Association (IAPA), while Switzerland's Swissair was chosen as the world's top-ranking airline. IAPA Senior Vice-President Hans Krakauer, announcing the results of the group's biannual survey, said Singapore's Changi Airport had ranked a close second to Schiphol. Third was Zurich, fourth Frankfurt, fifth London's Heathrow and sixth Paris' Charles de Gaulle. Conditions for the selections were rapid baggage handling, quick and convenient check-in procedures, fast customs checks, easy transfers and short walking distances. Swissair held its leading position among airlines with West Germany's Lufthansa chosen as second best followed by Singapore Airlines, British Airways and the Dutch airline KLM.

Lufthansa starts weighing passengers

COLOGNE, West Germany (R) — Lufthansa, West Germany's national airline, has begun weighing its passengers to provide up-to-date figures on the average weight to today's flying public. Lufthansa is asking passengers at Frankfurt, New York and Bangkok airports to step on the scales with their hand luggage before boarding. The weigh-in is voluntary and will last only for a limited period. To spare embarrassment, weights will be recorded on a computer and not made visible unless requested by the passenger. When Lufthansa last weighed its customers, in 1978, the heaviest clocked in at 168 kilograms together with coat, hand luggage and duty free goods.

Artist's excrement fetches \$1,400

MILAN, Italy (R) — A cylinder containing the excrement of an Italian artist who died in 1963 was auctioned here for 2.8 million lire (\$1,400), a spokesman for a Milan auction house said. The cylinder, one of 90 prepared by Piero Manzoni in the early 1960s and labelled "artist's excrement", was bought by a 38-year-old Milanese bank clerk who declined to reveal his surname but said he planned to keep the exhibit in his bedroom and leave it to his children. Another of Manzoni's works, a roll of paper sealed in a cardboard tube, was sold for 2.4 million lire (\$1,200).

Murderer claims killing 24 people

TORONTO (R) — Henry Lee Lucas, a convicted killer who claims responsibility for more than 360 murders in the United States, also says he killed up to 24 people in Canada, police said. Lucas, a 48-year-old drifter who was sentenced to death for murder in Texas, gave details to Canadian police who went to interview him in a prison in Georgetown, Texas. Police in Toronto declined to give any details, saying: "We want to make sure before we release any information that we've tied it down pretty tight. We don't want to cause any unnecessary grief or worry to the relatives," he said. Investigators had not yet verified the claims. Lucas said he had killed 12 women in western Canada and then in a second interview said he was responsible for between 10 and 12 deaths in the eastern Canadian province of Ontario.

Police bust drug ring in U.S. Senate kitchen

WASHINGTON (R) — Police, saying that congressional cafeteria workers were dishing out more than just food, reported they have broken up a drug peddling ring operating from a U.S. Senate kitchen. A police spokesman said eight kitchen workers were arrested two weeks ago on charges of selling cocaine, marijuana and the hallucinogen PCP to undercover policemen. The spokesman said the workers sold the drugs in the cafeteria kitchen of a Senate office building. They were later freed pending the outcome of court cases. It was not known whether any senators were aware of the drug selling, the spokesman said.